MONDAY
September 9, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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INITIATIVES BY
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TO ENSURE
SAFETY OF WOMAN AND GIRL CHILD

₹100 crore has been earmarked to ensure the safety of women in areas near medical colleges and hospitals. CCTV and lighting are being arranged at all designated locations.

To ensure justice, 88 fast track courts and 62 POCSO designated courts (for girl child) have been set up.

Out of the above, 52 designated courts have been set up for the swift trial of crimes against women.

49 women police stations have been set up.

In the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme, ₹107 crore already spent by the state for implementing initiatives aimed at women safety and security.

'RATTIRER SATHI' PROGRAM

Security measures are being enhanced, resting areas are being constructed at designated locations, and safe zones are being created for women working late at night.

Female volunteers are being deployed at night for enhanced security.

A special mobile phone app is being developed for all working women, equipped with an instant alarm raising capability and connected to the local police stations and police control rooms.

APARAJITA TASK FORCE

A specialised police task force has been established to expedite investigation of crimes against women.

Each district will have the task force.

As far as possible, investigation to be conducted by a female police officer.

SPEEDY JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS UNDER 'APARAJITA BILL', 2024
(PASSED BY WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024)

Rape: Rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life, along with fine; or death penalty.

If Rape Causes Death or Leaves Survivor in Vegetative State: **Death penalty.**

Gangrape: Rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life, along with fine; or death penalty.

Acid Attack: Rigorous imprisonment for the remainder of the convict's natural life, along with fine.

Swift Completion of Investigation: Investigation shall be completed within a maximum of 36 days from the date of FIR. (21 days initially which is extendable to a further 15 days by a senior officer after recording reasons).

Disposal of Trial for Crimes Against Women: Trial shall be completed within a period of 30 days from the date of filing of chargesheet.

Fines imposed will be utilised for the victim's medical treatment/ family's economic support and rehabilitation.

Government of West Bengal

ICA-D 1543(2)/2024

J BG-BGE

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HARYANA POLLS

Congress and AAP may announce tie-up today

NEWS » PAGE 11

SEEKING ASYLUM

Venezuela's Opposition leader leaves for Spain

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REMARKS AGAINST WRESTLERS

BJP asks Brij Bhushan to 'maintain silence'

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LAW AND SOCIAL PRACTICES

The vulnerability of live-in couples

Social conservatism is finding its way back to institutions of justice

OPINION » PAGE 9

RECORD HAUL

Navdeep bags gold, India wins 29 medals

SPORT » PAGE 15

Odisha braces for heavy rain as depression forms in Bay

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha is likely to receive heavy rain for the next three days as a well-marked low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal has turned into a depression, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

The State government has put 16 districts on high alert.

The IMD said the atmospheric system was situated at a distance of about 280 km east of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and is likely to move nearly northwards towards the north Odisha-West Bengal coasts and intensify into a deep depression during the next 24 hours.

Fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea till September 11.

RAIN FURY IN A.P.
» PAGE 7

Biren calls for targeted move on militant camps

Manipur Chief Minister meets Governor for the second time in less than 24 hours and hands over a memorandum as violence escalates in the State; he is unlikely to resign at a time of uncertainty

Vijaita Singh
Rahul Karmakar
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal on Sunday morning for the second time in less than 24 hours, and demanded targeted action by Central security forces at militant camps in the hills, a top source told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Singh is learnt to have told the Governor that the current crisis, exacerbated by the September 1 drone attack in Imphal West, requires a "professional approach" and that more "subject experts" need to be roped in, the source added.

Accompanied by several Ministers of the National Democratic Alliance and MLAs, the CM held a closed-door meeting with the Governor, and handed over a memorandum whose content has not been made public.

Stepping up surveillance: Security personnel stand guard in Imphal as fresh violence erupted in Manipur on Sunday. PTI

'Showing unity'

The source denied that Mr. Singh intended to resign. "This is not the time for uncertainty. MLAs were getting pressured by the public. The meeting was to show unity that we are doing our best to handle the situation," the source said.

Neither the Raj Bhavan nor the Chief Minister's Office has confirmed what transpired at the meetings.

Since September 1, at least nine people from the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities had been killed in drone attacks and gunfights.

On May 30, 2023, the Manipur government's security adviser Kuldiep Singh was designated as the chairperson of the unified command that is responsible for security-related decisions in the State. On September 2 this year, BJP MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh, the CM's son-in-law, wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying that the Union government "has to hand over" the unified command in the State to the Manipur government as the "present set up isn't able to halt such violence."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Govt. dissolves panel on statistics, surveys amid delayed Census

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has quietly dissolved the 14-member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS), headed by economist and former Chief Statistician of the country Pronab Sen, allegedly after its members questioned the delay in conducting the Census.

The reason it is being dismantled, according to an email sent to the members by Geeta Singh Rathore, Director-General of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), is that its work overlapped with that of the recently formed Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys. A copy of her email is with *The Hindu*.

Dr. Sen, however, told *The Hindu* that the members were not given any reason for disbanding the panel. He added that in their meetings, they had asked why the Census had not been conducted yet.

> I have no idea of what happened. I got an email that the committee had been disbanded
>
> **PRONAB SEN**
> Head of SCoS

India's decennial census, scheduled for 2021, was initially delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has yet to be notified.

Formed in July 2023, the SCoS was supposed to advise the Union government on survey methodology, including sampling frame and design and survey instruments, and to finalise a tabulation plan of surveys.

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NEARBY

Govt. to form panel to monitor colleges

BENGALURU
The State government has decided to constitute a committee to monitor the functioning of autonomous colleges in the wake of allegations about lapses in these colleges. » Page 2

Over 300 hotels join ONDC

BENGALURU
In July this year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA) partnered with GrowthFalcons, a seller-side platform on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), to challenge the dominance of two major players in the city's food delivery market. » Page 2

Kolkata's grief

All for justice: Doctors carry balloons inscribed with 'Justice for Abhaya' in Kolkata on Sunday as the city continues to witness protests against the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. ANI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Man with Mpox symptoms isolated, says Health Ministry

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A young male patient, who recently returned to India from a country with active Mpox transmission, has been identified as a suspected Mpox case, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday.

The Ministry did not release details about the case or the place of occurrence, but maintained that the patient has been isolated, and his condition is reported to be stable. Samples have been collected from the patient to confirm whether he has contracted Mpox. Contact tracing is also being done "to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country", it said.

Exercising caution: The government has advised patients to seek medical help if any symptoms are seen. AFP

"The development of this case is consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by the [National Centre for Disease Control] NCDC and there is no cause of any undue concern," the Ministry said.

Prashant Joshi, Executive Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Nagpur, advised patients to seek medical help if the mentioned symptoms are seen, along with a travel history to endemic areas or contact with a suspected or confirmed case of Mpox.

Discussion on CM's post refuses to die down

BENGALURU
Even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's legal fight resumes in the High Court of Karnataka on Monday the discussion around his possible successor refuses to die down. » Page 4

Good rains trigger hopes of high grain output

BENGALURU
Good rainfall during the ongoing south-west monsoon has triggered hopes of Karnataka's foodgrains production exceeding the target for this kharif season after a below-par production last year. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 17

Trinamool MP Sircar resigns over doctor's rape-murder

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP Jawhar Sircar resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Sunday over the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Kolkata.

In a letter to party chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said, "I have suffered patiently for a month since the terrible incident at R.G. Kar Hospital and was hoping for your direct intervention... The ever-punitive steps that the government is taking now are too little and quite late."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Ukraine keen on India joining the Swiss peace process, says envoy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As the Union government looks at a possible role for India in ending the Russia-Ukraine war, Kyiv is keen on getting New Delhi to sign the Swiss peace summit document. After the summit in June, India had issued a statement disassociating itself from its outcome as it did not involve Russia and Ukraine.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ukraine's Ambassador to India Oleksandr Polishchuk said that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had proposed a retrospective move by India to join the peace process ahead of plans for a second peace summit in October or November. Ukraine, he said, had more "ambition" for India than playing "post office" between the leaders of the two warring nations.

> We hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine and conversations with President Zelenskyy indicate India's support for the peace-building effort
>
> **OLEKSANDR POLISHCHUK**
> Ukraine's Ambassador to India

"We hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine and conversations with President Zelenskyy indicate India's support for the peace-building effort," Mr. Polishchuk told *The Hindu*.

He confirmed that Mr. Zelenskyy "discussed the possibility that India could review its decision at the first peace summit in Switzerland, and associate itself with the Burgenstock joint communique", retrospectively or for India to formulate its own proposals that support principles such as humanitarian access and nuclear safety.

"A large democracy like India should not just be a messenger or post office, conveying messages from one country in the conflict to the other – given PM Modi's ability to speak to all sides, he can play a larger role in guiding the process and even in hosting the peace summit," he added.

The envoy's comments come as the Modi government has stepped up its outreach to other countries playing a role in current efforts to end the conflict.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

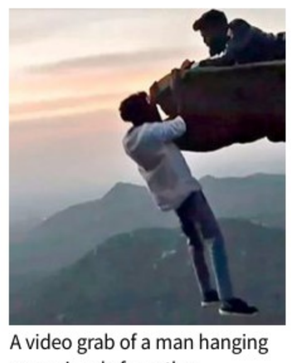
Man arrested for doing stunts on cliff for reels

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chickballapur Police are grappling with a dangerous trend: youths are risking their lives by performing stunts on the restricted Avalabetta cliffs to create viral social media reels. On Sunday, they arrested one such individual and are searching for another.

Avalabetta, 90 km from Bengaluru, is renowned for its dangerous cliff formations, including the Beak Rock. This 800-metre-high precipice is off-limits to the public due to safety concerns.

However, recent viral videos show youths defying these restrictions by performing daring stunts on the narrow rock face. One video depicts a man hanging precariously from the cliff's edge while his friend holds him, reminiscent of a movie scene.



A video grab of a man hanging precariously from the Avalabetta cliff's edge while his friend holds him.

In another, a woman dances dangerously on the Beak Rock.

Responding to these reckless acts, Chickballapur Police tracked down the man and apprehended him in Belagavi.

Identified as Akshay Kumar, 24, from Bagalkot, he was forced to apologise on video and the footage was shared on social media as a deterrent. Kumar was later released on station bail. The police are still investigating the identity of the woman in the other video.

Chickballapur Superintendent of Police Kushal Chowksey spoke of the dangers of trespassing into restricted areas of Avalabetta.

To enhance safety measures, the police have announced plans to barricade risky areas and increase patrols around Avalabetta.

The clock is ticking for the aesthetically pleasing Samson

With abundance of talent and grace, it is still a mystery as to why the right-hander hasn't seen consistent success at the international level and the inclusion of Dravid at the RR set up might help turn things around

R. Kaushik

At his absolute best, Sanju Samson is a sight for the gods. Tall and upright, and blessed with an elegance that only comes to a select few, he makes batting look the easiest proposition in the world. The hallmark of top-class batters, they say, is the ability to pick the length early and play the ball late. Samson is as felicitous as they come, easy on the eye and making the best of bowlers appear commonplace.

So far so good. Samson, however, hasn't been at his absolute best for sustained periods of time which is why, two months shy of his 30th birthday, his international career is still at a crossroads, as it has been for several years now.

Samson was only 20 when he first played for the country, in a Twenty20 International against Zimbabwe in Harare in July 2015.

In the subsequent nine years, he has only made 30 T20I appearances; his One-Day International career didn't take off until July 2021, and he has 16 ODI caps. These aren't perhaps the numbers a batter of his immense skill sets deserve, but Samson is a victim as much of the profusion of riches India can summon as his own fallibilities which haven't allowed him to average more than 19.30 at a strike-rate of 131.36 in his T20I career.

His ODI record is far more inspiring, suggesting that he deserves a longer run in the longer white-ball format. Fourteen innings have yielded 510 runs at 56.66, and a strike-rate of 99.60 is in keeping with the demands on a middle-over batter in an era where 300 is no longer the exception.

But Samson has made his name as a T20 destroyer, a legacy of his dominant performances for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League where he has hit numerous peaks and sent some of the greatest performers of the past into raptures with his silken touch and his delectable placement, which is why it is hard to reconcile to his modest performances for the country.

Samson's supporters - and there are millions of them - will point to the fact that he has seldom got the bouquet of chances that those that are less gifted than him, they will argue, have been bestowed with. That argument won't be without justification; but the corollary to that is that in the chances that have come his way, he may not have done enough to convince the decision-makers that he deserves a longer rope.

Samson has topped 30 just four times in 26 T20I innings, and he has batted below No. 5 just twice. He himself will be the first to admit that those aren't exactly flattering numbers, nor is the fact that he has gone past 15 just twice in his last seven innings or that his last two knocks have failed to produce a single run, in Sri Lanka in July.

Weight of expectations

What ails Samson on the highest stage of all, then? It can't be talent or skill, because when he has made runs, he has done so with the same consummate ease as in the IPL, which sometimes can pose a more potent threat than international cricket. Maybe he is guilty of choosing the wrong shots at the wrong time - read early in his innings - or that the rub of the green hasn't always gone his way in that his first mistake has often been his last. Maybe he is feeling the burden of expectations and has allowed that weight to burgeon with each passing low score. Because no one can state with any authority that he doesn't' belong in international cricket.

How else could he have made his mark in 50-over cricket? It took him a minute to break into the ODI set-up and he hasn't been a regular there too, his chances often coming when many of the first-choice players have been rested, but there he has grabbed his chances unfailingly with a consistency that is markedly in contrast to his T20I record.

His last ODI knock was a beautifully flowing 108 against South Africa in Paarl in December, and he was unlucky not to figure in the three-match series in Sri Lanka last month, but that has plenty to do with the return to action of Rishabh Pant, back in business after his horrendous road accident in December 2022.

Samson's 50-over time will come, and not too long from now, one suspects. India don't have any more ODIs for the rest of the year, but early in 2025, they will play England at home in preparation for the Champions Trophy, being revived after nearly eight years.

FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

It is possible that after that tournament, batting slots will open up and Samson will be one of the frontrunners to make his comeback, especially with the bigger picture and the 2027 World Cup in mind.

Until then, however, he has T20I series at home against Bangladesh and in South Africa in November to convince his doubters, as much as himself, that he still has plenty to offer on the international stage.

India are entering a tense, brave, exciting new phase in that version under a new captain and with a new head coach firmly in place.

For now, Suryakumar Yadav has been identified as the man best suited to lead India's title defence in the next T20 World Cup, in India and Sri Lanka in 2026, and he and Gautam Gambhir will begin the process of identifying the key cogs in the wheel in right earnest, now that Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja have all bid adieu to the hustle and bustle of the 20-over format.

The next few months will, therefore, be crucial to how Samson's immediate future shapes up. Assuming the think-tank keeps the faith and continues to invest in him, it will be up to him to make multiple statements of intent through meaningful contributions that will comprehensively erase the tag of T20 underachiever for the country. That will require, more than anything else, just a slight reset of the thinking process rather than a major technical or game-related physical overhaul.

A little more judiciousness in shot selection won't be out of place, nor will be the infusion of loads of positive messaging and confidence boost from the brains' trust. Samson isn't yet in the senior statesman category, but he is a seasoned cricketer at the representative level and a leader in his own right, not just the captain of his IPL franchise. He has a good cricketing brain and can be relied upon to weigh in with pithy inputs in the decision-making process, but all that will be secondary to the runs that he will expect off his own willow.

Realistic prospects

That he isn't in the red-ball scheme of things for now was evident from his non-inclusion in any of the four squads picked by Ajit Agarkar's national selection panel for the ongoing Duleep Trophy. Samson snuck in as a late replacement for the injured Ishan Kishan in the India-D side that played India-C in Anantapur, though it was K.S. Bharat who kept wickets in the four-wicket loss. There is a rich array of wicketkeeper-batter riches that India can pick from - apart from Pant, Kishan and Bharat, the others in the fray are Dhruv Jurel, who had three excellent Tests against England at home earlier this year, as well as Abhishek Porel. The Test door might not yet be shut on Samson, but it will take him a Herculean effort to prise it open. The more alluring and realistic prospects lie in the two white-ball variants, especially with so many big-ticket events coming on the back of each other - the Champions Trophy next year, the T20 World Cup in 2026 and the 50-over World Cup in 2027.

It will be a travesty if Samson's international career remains one less fulfilled. The hallmark of a quality batter is in how easy he makes that particular vocation appear. Samson is aesthetically gifted and works as hard as anyone else; he is a keen listener and an avid student, and he will benefit from being reunited with Rahul Dravid, who has taken charge as head coach of Rajasthan Royals once again. Dravid and Samson share not just a terrific working relationship but also a great empathetic bond, and if the captain can make the most of having the head coach back in his corner, it won't just be Samson who comes out a winner.

Samson won't be unaware that he will attract a lot of scrutiny and attention, both from his vast legion of adoring fans as well as the critics who won't waste time in pointing out the disparity between his IPL and international numbers. It's all fine to say that he shouldn't waste time on issues that are beyond his control but as a human being, it is inevitable that he will spend at least a little bit of his energy on this issue. More of his energy will be concentrated on how he can be the best version of himself with the cricket bat more often than not. After all, that is what will take him onwards and upwards, which is the perennial endeavour of every competitive sportsperson worth their salt.

THE GIST

- It will be a travesty if Samson's international career remains one less fulfilled
- Samson won't be unaware that he will attract a lot of scrutiny and attention
- Dravid and Samson share not just a terrific working relationship but also a great empathetic bond

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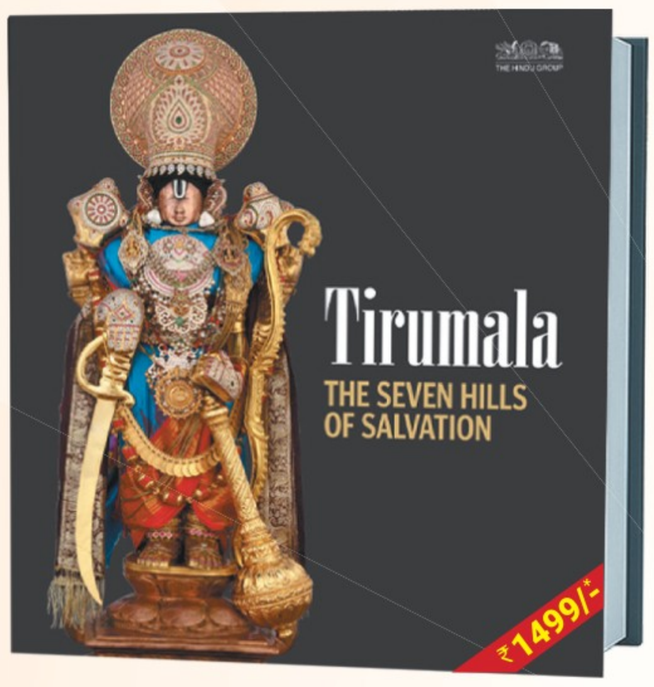

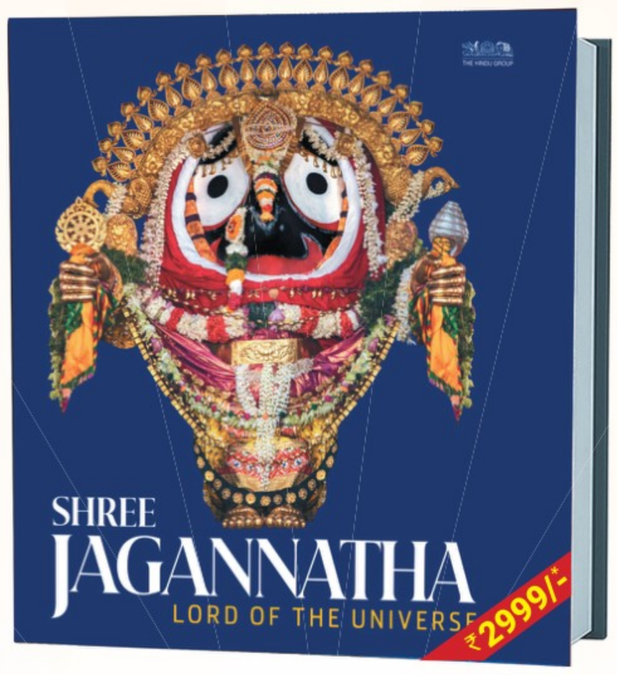

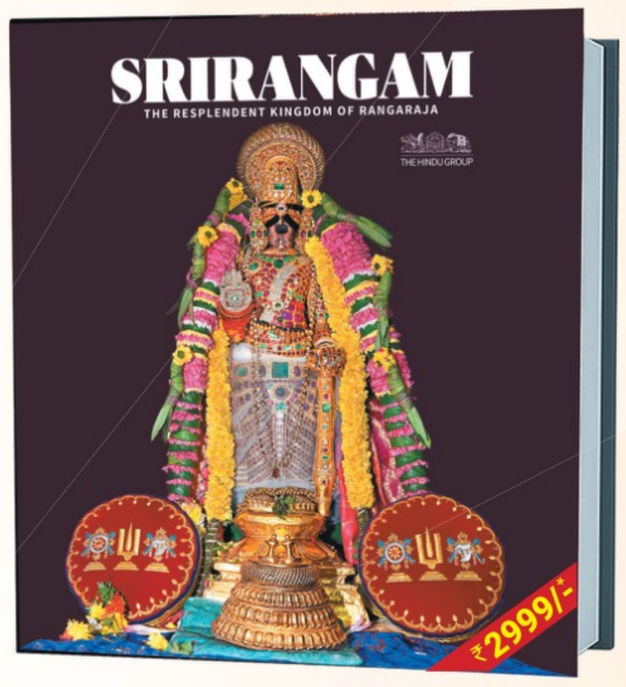

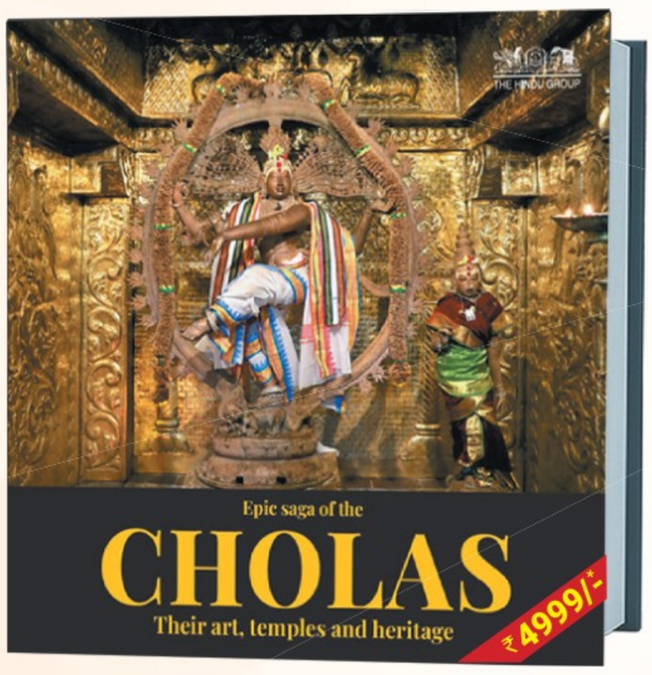

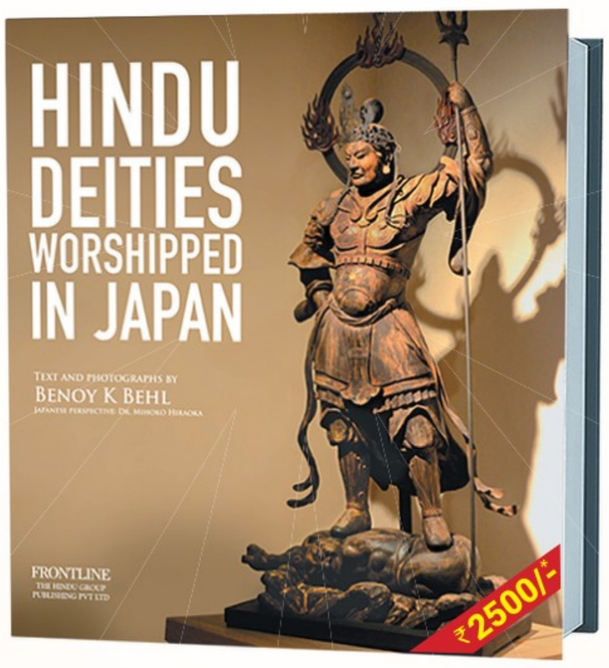

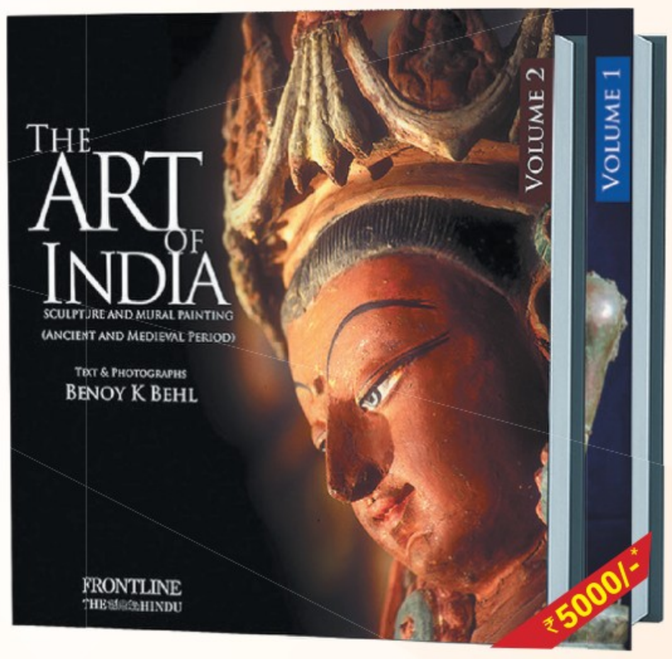

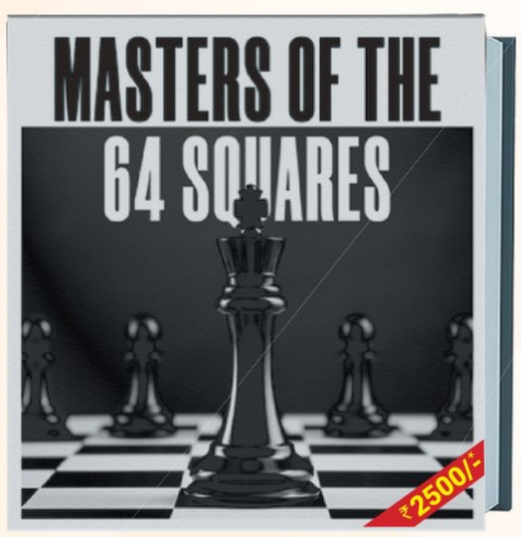

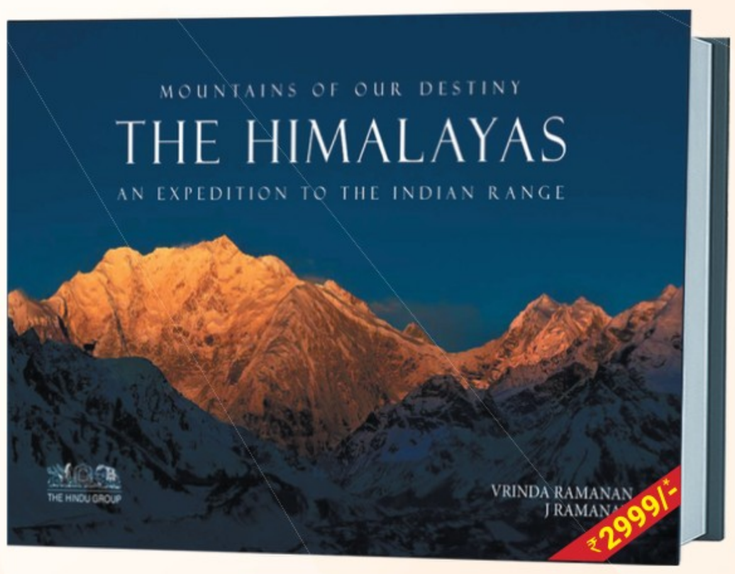

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State govt. to form committee to monitor autonomous colleges

Minister Sudhakar says colleges will be granted such a status only after a thorough review as per UGC guidelines

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Only 85 out of over 4,500 colleges in Karnataka are autonomous. FILE PHOTO

The State government has decided to constitute a committee to monitor the functioning of autonomous colleges in the wake of allegations about lapses in these colleges regarding fee fixation, examination system, and announcement of results. There have also been complaints that these autonomous colleges have not paid affiliation fees to their respective universities.

Minister for Higher Education M. C. Sudhakar recently chaired a meeting of senior officials, vice-chancellors and former vice-chancellors to take a call on autonomous colleges. There has been a clamour to grant autonomous status to more colleges as currently only 85 of over 4,500 colleges (less than 2%) in the State have the status.

However, concerns were raised on giving more colleges autonomous status at the meeting and a decision was instead taken to form a committee to monitor autonomous colleges.

Maintaining quality

"It is important that autonomous colleges maintain their quality. We have got complaints about the fee structure and examination system.

Some colleges have not paid affiliation fees to their respective universities. We have asked universities to submit a report. A committee will be constituted to monitor autonomous colleges and take appropriate action when needed," Dr. Sudhakar told *The Hindu*.

The Minister said colleges would be granted autonomous status only after a thorough review as per UGC guidelines.

The norms state that any college with a minimum of A grade in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or has accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and has good academic discipline, faculty, and infrastructure is eligible for an autonomous status.

Those colleges that are granted autonomous status can form their governing councils, set their syllabus, conduct exams and declare results.

There has been a clamour to grant autonomous status to more colleges as currently less than 2% in the State have that

More applications

"About five colleges have been given autonomy this year, and recently, around six more applications seeking autonomy have been submitted to the department.

However, we need to think about the impact of granting autonomy to more and more colleges. Presently, their proportion is less than 2%.

But we need to lay down strict norms to ensure their share doesn't increase to a level in the future that will impact universities. Hence, only eligible colleges will be given autonomous status after a comprehensive review. If necessary, we will even write to the UGC seeking changes in the eligibility criteria," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Over 300 hotels join ONDC; 60,000 deliveries a day

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association expects more than 1,000 restaurants to join the platform. K. MURALI KUMAR

In July this year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA) partnered with GrowthFalcons, a seller-side platform on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), to challenge the dominance of two major players in the city's food delivery market. Using Ola Consumers as the buyer app, at least 50,000-60,000 food delivery orders from Bengaluru a day are now being placed on ONDC.

"With Zomato and Swiggy controlling a significant portion of the food delivery market, hoteliers had been exploring ONDC since 2023 to benefit both consumers and restaurant managements," said P.C. Rao, president of BBHA. "Over 300 hotels, which come under BBHA, have been onboarded on ONDC now, including popular names like Vidyarthi Bhavan, Kamat, and Swathi groups."

"The market monopoly led to higher delivery charges for customers and hidden costs for hoteliers. Our partnership with GrowthFalcons aims to create a win-win situation for all stakeholders," Rao explained. "We expect more than 1,000 restaurants to join the platform gradually, and customers can hope for approximately 15-25% lower costs for food deliveries compared to other platforms."

While ONDC's food delivery platform offers numerous discounts and free deliveries, customers have encountered some inconveniences. For instance, the food section of one of the buyer apps requires a minimum order value of ₹130.

"On other food delivery apps, I can place orders as low as ₹30," said Kshama R., a resident of Yelahanka New Town. "When I tried to use ONDC, I couldn't order an ice cream that cost only ₹70."

Another issue, highlighted on social media, involves orders marked as delivered when they were not. Customers complained of paying for orders they never received.

Girish Pai, founder and CEO of GrowthFalcons, acknowledged that this is a common problem across logistics apps. "Delivery agents may face issues like bike problems or accidents, preventing them from completing deliveries. In such cases, another delivery partner is usually assigned. If this doesn't happen and the status shows delivered, customers can raise a ticket with GrowthFalcons for a refund," Pai explained.

Rao also admitted to some minor teething problems that are being addressed by ONDC to improve the customer experience.

KIA's two terminals to be connected by a walkway

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) is planning to construct a pedestrian walkway connecting Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 at Kempegowda International Airport.

KIA, India's third-busiest airport, handles over 37.5 million passengers annually.

The two terminals are separated by approximately 600 metres. While T1 primarily serves domestic flights, T2 is dedicated to international flights and a few domestic routes.

Currently, passengers must use inter-terminal shuttle services, which operate every 10 minutes, to travel between the terminals.

This journey takes approximately 10 minutes. To enhance the passenger experience, BIAL aims to build a direct walkway.

To this end, BIAL has issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) seeking design consultancy services. "We intend to hire a consultant for design consultancy services for a walkway from T1 to T2. We invite quotations from qualified consultants with expertise in similar projects at KIA," states the RFQ.

T1, also known as the old terminal, is the hub for domestic flights of Indigo, Akasa Air, Alliance Air, and SpiceJet.

T2, located northeast of T1, is the exclusive hub for international flights and domestic flights of AirAsia, Air India, Star Air, and Vistara. The airport already has a 420-metre elevated walkway connecting T1 to the P4 parking bay.

Festive spirit

Devotees take part in the St. Mary's Basilica chariot procession at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

DKS warns of action if city is not pothole-free

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A week after setting a 15-day deadline to make the city's streets pothole-free, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar held a review meeting on Sunday before leaving for the US on a private visit for a week.

He warned officials of stringent action if there were any complaints of potholes by the end of the 15-day deadline he set on September 2.

He stated that at the end of the 15 days, he would conduct city rounds, and if potholes were still found unfilled, then officials would be suspended as well.

"The 400 engineers on staff should prioritise this over all other work and fill potholes within 15 days. From junior to senior officials, all of them should get on the streets and fill the potholes in their wards. If they do not, and we receive another complaint from the public, we will have to act mercilessly and suspend the concerned officials," he said on Sunday.

Mr. Shivakumar also instructed officials to keep the BBMP Control Room on alert as there might be sudden rains in September.

"I have told the Control Room to stay alert and that if any complaints of waterlogging or flooding of houses are received, they should be dealt with expeditiously," he said. He further mentioned that, with the recent tree-falling incidents, the Forest Department has been asked to prune trees appropriately, as gusty winds are expected. "We cannot cut down trees, but we can trim the top portions so that they do not fall," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 09		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:25
RISE	10:49	SET 22:24
TUESDAY, SEP. 10		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:24
RISE	11:42	SET 23:12
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 11		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:23
RISE	12:38	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A pleasant morning turns slight warm day. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C DMorning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Over 2 lakh Ganesha idols immersed across eight zones in the city during festivities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Devotees watch as a crane carries an idol of the Hindu deity 'Ganesha' for immersion into the Ulsoor Lake in Bengaluru on Sunday. AFP

A total of 2,17,006 Ganesha idols were immersed across eight zones in Bengaluru on Saturday, as part of the Ganesha Chaturthi celebrations. Idols were immersed in both dedicated kalyanis at lakes and mobile immersion tankers provided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The South Zone witnessed the highest number of immersions, with 84,149 idols, followed by the West Zone, with 52,429. The East Zone recorded 40,791 immersions, while the Dasarahalli Zone had the lowest with 1,719. BBMP officials stated that extensive measures were implemented to ensure smooth and environmentally friendly idol immersions.

Kalyanis, or immersion ponds, handled the majority of idols, accounting for 176,895 (81.5%) of the total.

Meanwhile, 40,106 idols were immersed in mobile tankers, reducing the environmental impact on natural water bodies and providing convenience to devotees.

The West Zone saw significant use of mobile tankers, with 25,499 idols immersed, more than half of the city's total.

The civic body has banned the sale, installation, and immersion of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols. However, PoP idols were still prevalent this year, and sources within the BBMP confirmed their presence at some immersion facilities. The civic body, however, did not provide a breakdown of clay and PoP idols immersed, a practice discontinued after a controversy in 2023.

As many as 40,106 idols were released into mobile tankers, reducing the environmental impact on natural water bodies

Many markets in the city were deserted on Sunday, with festival waste like plantain stems, leaves, mango leaves, and flowers scattered around. Stray cattle were observed grazing on this waste. Civic officials stated that waste data collection is ongoing.

Man booked for domestic violence after wife ends life

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hulimavu police have booked a 33-year-old private firm employee – accused of harassing his wife for the last three months, which allegedly drove her to end her life – on charges of domestic violence and abetment to suicide.

The victim, Anusha, a resident of Akshay Nagar, set herself on fire after pouring petrol on herself while on a video call with her husband, Harish Venkatesh, on Thursday. She succumbed to her injuries on Saturday, September 7. The couple had a two-year-old child.

In her complaint to the police, Anusha's mother, Renuka, alleged that Harish had been harassing Anusha, demanding a divorce because he was having an extramarital affair at his workplace. However, Anusha refused to give him a divorce, arguing that their child needed a father.

After a heated argument over the phone on Thursday regarding the same issue, Anusha walked into the bedroom, locked herself inside while on a video call with Harish, poured petrol over herself, and warned him that she would set herself on fire. Allegedly, an agitated Harish told her to go ahead, after which she immolated herself. Renuka, who was feeding the child at that time, rushed her to Victoria Hospital.

Ms. Renuka stated that Harish wanted to remarry, and when questioned, he would often say that if actor Darshan could marry twice, why couldn't he marry a second time.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on ph:104 for help)

Five killed in accident in Madhugiri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Five people were killed, and three others were injured in a head-on collision between two cars on Sunday night near Keregalapalya in Madhugiri taluk of Tumakuru district.

The victims include a 12-year-old girl, Sidhu, two of her family members, and the car driver, Yogesh.

The family was returning to their home in Bengaluru, after visiting their native place for the Gowri-Ganesha festival. The fifth person who died, Nagaraj, was in the other car heading from Madhugiri to Koratagere.

According to a senior police official, the accident occurred when the car heading towards Bengaluru attempted to overtake a truck and collided with the oncoming vehicle.

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Mice study claims to have found long COVID's 'real' perpetrator

The current concept of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis is that the inflammation triggered by the virus damages the inner lining of blood vessels and starts a clotting process during which fibrin is deposited in the blood. The new study has flipped this concept, finding that fibrin is reportedly the driver of COVID-19 inflammation

Puneet Kumar
Vipin M. Vashishtha

In scientific circles, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is well-known as a vasculopathic agent: a damager of blood vessels.

The dominant respiratory symptoms associated with COVID-19 are largely due to clotting and inflammation in the blood vessels of the lungs (rather than the direct involvement of the airways). Its more severe complications, including neurological ones like stroke, are rooted in vasculopathy as well.

Lack of correlation

Persistent thrombo-inflammation is an important mechanism in a complex web of factors that leads to the myriad symptoms of post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection – a.k.a. long COVID. This condition continues to affect millions of people worldwide even after high population immunity and the significantly lower incidence of severe COVID-19.

This is why blood thinners have played a significant role in managing the complications due to COVID-19. Sadly, researchers have found that these complications aren't correlated with the severity of initial COVID-19, meaning a person can have these complications after mild or even asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.

Large knowledge gaps exist regarding the mechanisms underlying the blood's difficulties with clotting (coagulopathy), their consequences, and treatment options for the resulting inflammation and neuropathology.

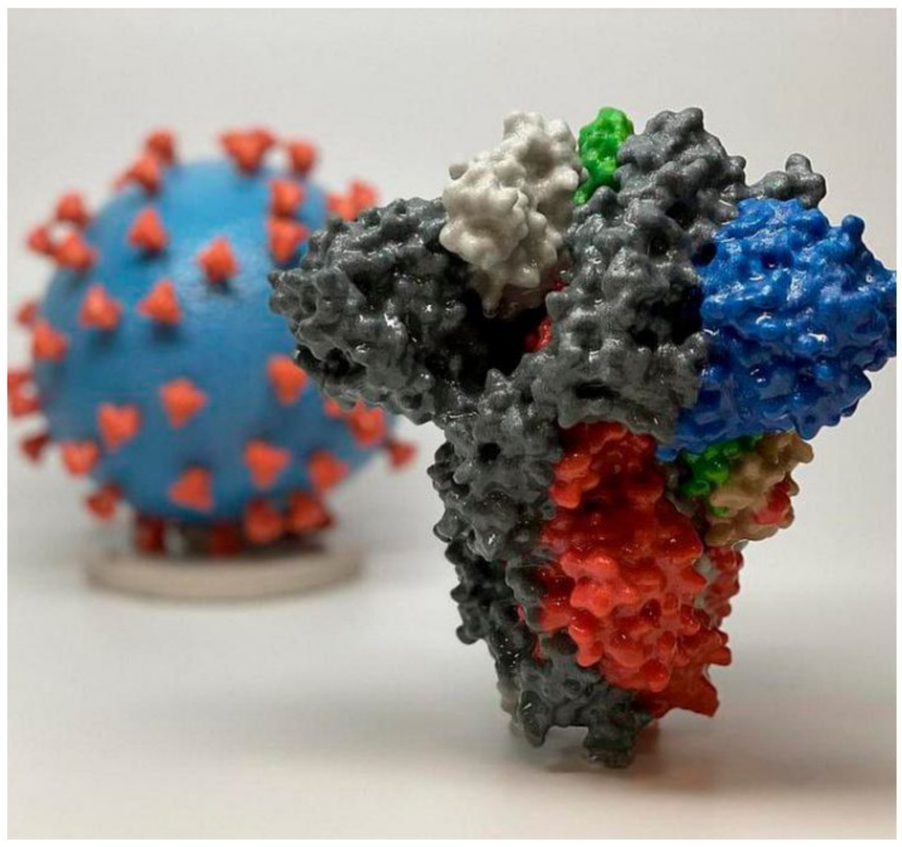
Turned on its head

A study published in *Nature* on August 28 provided a new perspective on this scenario and has seeded hope of a breakthrough in managing these cases.

The study was concerned with fibrinogen and fibrin, two components of blood that play important roles in clotting. Fibrinogen is a soluble protein that is formed in the liver and subsequently converted to the insoluble fibrin.

Whenever the body bleeds, the event triggers a carefully controlled cascade of processes that finishes with a clot. Uncontrolled or abnormally triggered clotting is the root cause of clotting-related complications of several clinical conditions, including those of COVID-19 and long COVID.

The current concept of SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis is that the inflammation triggered by the virus damages the endothelium, or inner lining, of blood vessels. This triggers the clotting process during which fibrin is deposited in the blood.



A 3D print of a spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 in front of a 3D print of a SARS-CoV-2 virus particle. The spike protein (foreground) enables the virus to enter and infect human cells. NIH/NIAD-RML

But the new study has turned this concept around. Using a mouse model of COVID-19, the researchers showed that fibrinogen and fibrin actively bind to the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and that this relationship drives the inflammation and the complications in the lungs and the brain. That is, rather than being part of the effect, fibrin is reportedly the driver of COVID-19 inflammation and neuropathology.

The spike protein-fibrin combo

The team has provided stepwise evidence to support its findings. First, the researchers demonstrated the binding of the trimeric spike protein with fibrinogen with significant affinity.

They also showed the spike protein and the fibrinogen become localised in high concentration in the lungs (during an experimental infection with the virus).

The researchers also reported that a specific binding site, called $\gamma_{377-395}$, on fibrinogen is where the spike protein attaches itself. (Conversely, there were multiple sites on the spike protein where the fibrinogen could bind itself. One in particular, called spike$_{37-103}$, the researchers identified as the "best".)Next, they showed that the interaction of the spike protein with the fibrinogen, and fibrin, leads to an altered clot structure that resists being broken up (lysis). This correlates well with the lower-than-usual effectiveness of clot-dissolving drugs in people with COVID-19. Further, the researchers showed the abnormal clot could trigger inflammatory activity that becomes worse when the fibrinogen is converted to fibrin. They also showed that the fibrin-spike protein combo altered immune pathways.

> Whenever the body bleeds, the event triggers a cascade of processes that finishes with a clot. Uncontrolled or abnormally triggered clotting is the root cause of clotting-related complications of several clinical conditions, including those of COVID-19 and long COVID

Not related to vaccines issue

We know that the spike protein continues to circulate in the body of patients who have long COVID even after the active infection has cleared. So the researchers studied the role of the fibrin-spike protein combo in a post-infection scenario as well. Here, they reported a fibrin-dependent mechanism that elicited an inflammatory response in the presence of the spike protein but even if there was no active infection.

Importantly, the researchers have said this is *not* the mechanism underlying the rare clotting-related complications associated with COVID-19 vaccines based on an adenovirus vector. These complications are instead related to the adenovirus component and aren't seen in vaccines based on other platforms that also use the spike protein.

A monoclonal antibody option

The study is interesting because it demonstrates a possibly attractive therapeutic strategy that could change the way we manage COVID-19 and long COVID.

In fact the researchers found that monoclonal antibody 5B8 binds to the $\gamma_{377-395}$ site of fibrinogen and could keep the spike protein at bay and prevent all the resulting complications. This antibody also doesn't alter the normal functioning of fibrinogen and doesn't induce its own clotting-related side effects.

They demonstrated this therapeutic strategy in a mouse model of COVID-19. An affinity-matured derivative of 5B8 modified for human use has already entered phase I clinical trials to assess safety and tolerability. If it successfully completes this phase, it is likely to enter into phase 2 where researchers will assess clinical endpoints.

Proceed with caution

This said, although the study appears to be a path-breaking advance, critics have rightly argued that this is a preliminary animal study and that there is still a long road ahead.

Further, although the researchers have repeatedly stressed the importance of the study's findings for the management of long COVID, the study duration was not long enough to qualify as a study of long COVID *per se*.

Most conclusions in the study are based on hypotheses and extrapolations that will need to be confirmed by more studies specifically planned for that purpose.

Finally, the researchers' conflict of interest is important: many of the co-authors are associated with companies that manufacture fibrin antibodies and are also patent-holders for the development and therapeutic use of antibodies.

(Puneet Kumar is a clinician, Kumar Child Clinic, New Delhi. Vipin M. Vashishtha is director and paediatrician, Mangla Hospital and Research Center, Bijnor. kumarchildclinic@gmail.com, vipinipsita@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Thrombo-inflammation causes the symptoms of post-acute sequelae of long COVID. This condition continues to affect millions worldwide even after high population immunity and significantly lower incidence of severe COVID-19

Researchers have found that long COVID complications aren't correlated with the severity of initial COVID-19. A person can have these complications after mild or even asymptomatic COVID-19 infection

The study demonstrated a therapeutic strategy to manage COVID. A derivative of the 5B8 antibody has entered phase I clinical trials. If it completes this phase, it is likely to enter phase 2 where researchers will assess clinical endpoints

BIG SHOT

Security officers check the railroad tracks as the Soyuz MS-26 mission launch vehicle is transported from the assembly hangar to the launch pad ahead of its upcoming lift-off with the next International Space Station (ISS) crew, at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on Sunday. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Planetary protection: keeping out 'toxic aliens'

Vasudevan Mukunth

In space missions from the earth to another planetary body, planetary protection is the idea that it's important to preserve the biospheres of the earth and the body against contamination by "alien" microbial life.

It's an important principle of interplanetary missions, such as from the earth to the moon or Mars. It stems from the idea that we ought to keep the planetary biosphere "pristine" and from being "corrupted" by influences that may not exist had the space mission not been undertaken.

On September 5, China announced it would be pulling up the date for Tianwen-3, its ambitious Mars sample-return mission, to 2028, potentially ahead of the U.S. During the announcement, the mission's designer said it would abide by the planetary protection principle.

The principle has a legal basis in Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty (1967). It states that parties to the treaty explore outer space while avoiding "harmful contamination and ... adverse changes" in the earth's and the body's environments due to "the introduction of extraterrestrial matter."

An important way to "clean" spacecraft ahead of interplanetary missions to conform to the planetary protection principle is to fully assemble the vehicle and bake it in a dry room for three days at 120 degrees C. This increases the costs and the technical strength of the spacecraft, but such are the demands of keeping biospheres 'clean'.

A model of NASA's Viking 1 lander, which became the first spacecraft to land on Mars in 1976. It was designed and operated to facilitate planetary protection. FILE PHOTO

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Accessibility-related complaints filed on govt. app since 2021

1,441 The complaints were lodged on the government's flagship Sugamya Bharat mobile application. A partnership has been established with Mission Accessibility and I-STEM to develop the app. PTI

Number of fatalities from undiagnosed fever in Gujarat

12 Despite primarily appearing to be cases of pneumonitis, panchayat members of a local district in Kutch said doctors had not been able to accurately diagnose the fever, which was also causing difficulty in breathing. PTI

The number of CRPF troops placed in Chhattisgarh

4,000 The troops have been placed in certain areas of Bastar in Chhattisgarh as part of a strategy to match the Union government's latest resolve of ending the Maoist problem by March 2026. PTI

The number of people killed in Russia's strike on Poltava

58 In one of their most lethal attacks on Ukraine, Russia attacked a military education institute. Officials have not said how many of the victims were military or civilians. The Ukraine President repeated his calls for more air defence systems. AFP

The amount of rice that India sent to drought-hit Malawi

1,000 in metric tonnes. In March, the government of Malawi declared a state of disaster following drought in 23 of the country's 28 districts. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Unusual sight: Rain clouds seen, following reports from the Pakistan Meteorological Department of a potential cyclonic storm that could develop over the Arabian Sea, at Clifton Beach in Karachi, Pakistan on August 30. REUTERS

On uncommon cyclones in the Arabian Sea

Why does the north Indian ocean have two cyclone seasons while all other cyclogenesis regions have just one? How is climate change affecting the region and adding to the unusual activity? Why was there a lot of excitement over Asna, a rare August cyclone?

EXPLAINER

Raghu Murtugudde

The story so far:

The north Indian Ocean supplies a large part of the moisture required to generate the 200 lakh crore or so buckets of water during the summer monsoon. That implies a lot of evaporation from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, which requires these seas to be warm enough to allow evaporation. Warm tropical oceans also tend to be hotbeds of cyclones. And yet, the north Indian Ocean is the least active region of the world's oceans vis-à-vis the number of cyclones. The combination of some factors that favour cyclogenesis and some that suppress it make this area unusual in terms of cyclone seasons, numbers, and the response of the ocean and the cyclones to global warming.

Why is the Indian Ocean unique?

The Indian Ocean receives a lot of attention for its monsoonal circulation and the dramatic seasonal wind reversals to the north of the equator. But it's also unique because it has 'oceanic tunnels' connecting it to the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean. The Pacific tunnel brings a significant amount of warm water every year in the upper 500 m while the Southern Ocean tunnel brings in cooler waters below about 1 km.

The Arabian Sea warms rapidly during the pre-monsoon season as the Sun crosses over to the northern hemisphere. The Bay of Bengal is relatively warmer than the Arabian Sea but warms further and begins to produce atmospheric convection and rainfall. The trough that eventually leads to the monsoon onset over Kerala arrives in mid-May itself over the Bay of Bengal. The post-monsoon season is the northeast monsoon season for India, and produces significant amounts of rain over several States.

All these wind patterns and sea surface temperatures influence cyclogenesis throughout the year over the north Indian Ocean and sustain the stark contrast in cyclogenesis between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Does climate change play a part too?

Climate change amplifies the uniqueness of the Indian Ocean. More heat is coming in from the Pacific Ocean now while the Southern Ocean is also pushing in warmer waters. The Indian Ocean is warming rapidly due to these inputs, plus atmospheric changes in winds and humidity. The north Indian Ocean and the monsoon are now responding to related climate change drivers from tropical oceans as well as from pole-to-pole influences.

The Ocean's rapid warming is now reported to be affecting the heat uptake by the Pacific Ocean and the sinking of heavy waters in the north Atlantic Ocean. The Indian Ocean is essentially acting like a clearinghouse for ocean warming during climate change. All these region-specific idiosyncrasies play into cyclogenesis, cyclone numbers, and their responses to climate change over the Indian Ocean.

Are cyclones common?

During the monsoon itself, the strong southwesterly winds – or the so-called low-level jet – drive a strong evaporation and mixing of cold subsurface waters with the surface waters. Thus the Arabian Sea becomes significantly cooler during the pre-monsoon season. The strong convective activity over the Bay of Bengal produces many low-pressure, or cyclonic, systems during the monsoon but they rarely grow into cyclones.

This is because the strong monsoon winds vary in strength and direction from the surface to the middle atmosphere. This variation is called vertical shear and it tends to strip off the energy from any cyclone that may be trying to grow.

The net result is that the dominant cyclone season is uniquely split into the pre- and post-monsoon seasons over the north Indian Ocean. All other cyclogenesis regions have a single cyclone season during the year.

The main impact of the monsoonal circulation is that the warm ocean, the heat content, and the atmospheric convection favour cyclogenesis over the north Indian Ocean. This leads to cyclones being formed during the pre-monsoon and the post-monsoon seasons. However, the Arabian Sea has much less convective activity during the pre-monsoon and is relatively less prone to cyclogenesis. The northeast monsoon and dry continental air ends up cooling the Arabian Sea post-monsoon.

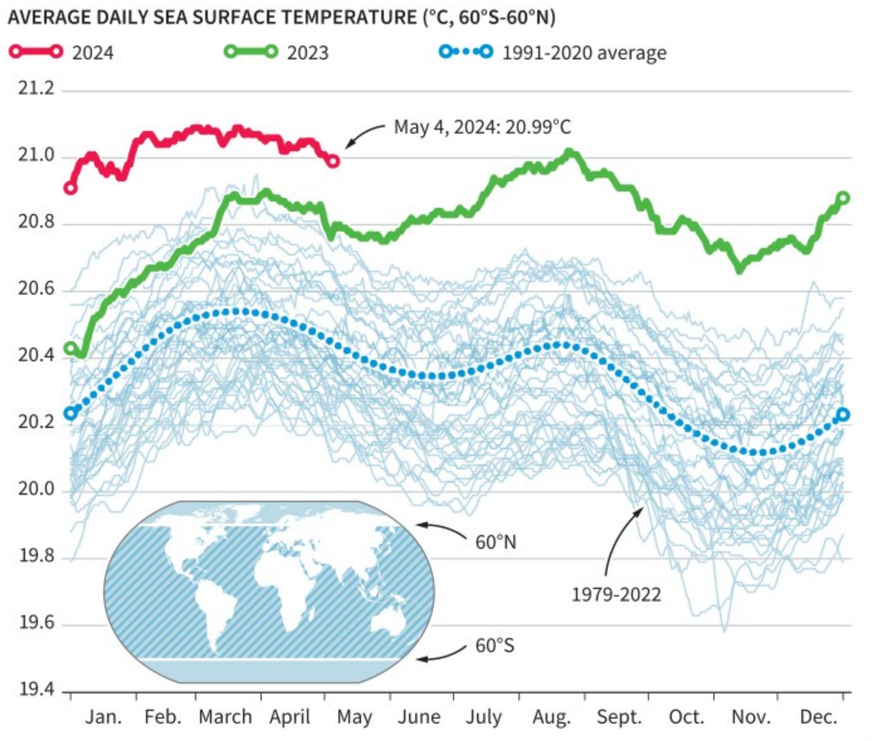
The number of cyclones in the Arabian Sea is thus about half of that over the Bay of Bengal in both seasons.

Thus, the cooler temperatures, stronger wind shear, and the relatively low convective activity over the Arabian Sea make the Arabian Sea relatively a desert for cyclones.

Some upward trend in the number of cyclones was reported from 2010 onwards but the Arabian Sea has been eerily calm the last few years.

Warming temperatures

More heat is coming in from the Pacific Ocean now while the Southern Ocean is also pushing in warmer waters. The Indian Ocean is warming rapidly due to these inputs, plus atmospheric changes in winds and humidity



Sources: BBC, Copernicus, ECMWF © GRAPHIC NEWS

What is Asna?

There was a lot of excitement recently about a rare August cyclone – named 'Asna' – born from the transition of a strong land-born depression onto the warm Arabian Sea. This is the first north Indian Ocean cyclone in August since 1981. The depression that grew into this cyclone itself was unusual in terms of its powerful growth over land. Low-pressure systems are typically born over the Bay of Bengal and traverse the core monsoon zone to bring about 60% of the total seasonal rainfall.

These ocean-born depressions can feed off of prior rainfall (as soil moisture) as they pass over India. There is some evidence that these low-pressure systems are now contributing to extreme rainfall events, but they have been stuck in a corridor for over a century. The unusual growth of the low-pressure system that brought deluges to western India fed off the soil moisture from excess rainfall since the beginning of the season. It was big enough to start hitting the warm northern Arabian Sea as it approached the western end of land. The ocean supplied the energy required for convection and to retain, and even, grow in strength.

Once its transition to the ocean is complete, it grew into a regular cyclone, but as a remarkably unusual land-born cyclone. The warming over the Arabian Sea has already been reported to be related to the northward shift of the low-level jet, which itself is driven by rapid warming over West Asia. Cyclonic storm Asna did cause nearly 50 deaths and left a trail of damages to crops and properties. It dissipated over the ocean eventually due to dry desert air being entrained into the circulation.

As the English writer Daniel Defoe said, "Expect nothing and you'll always be surprised." The warm 2023-2024 that resulted from a combination of global warming and El Niño, with a likely contribution from underwater volcanic eruptions, has produced plenty of surprises in terms of extreme events across the planet. The monsoon's evolution has also been unusual, especially since the forecasted strong La Niña hasn't emerged yet. The rainfall distribution remained as unpredictable as ever with a wet peninsular India and a strange mix of wet and dry regions over the country's north.

A low-pressure system is unusual but its amplification over land is. Its dash across land onto the ocean is another unexpected event. We didn't expect it and obviously were duly surprised.

Raghu Murtugudde is professor, IIT Bombay, and emeritus professor, University of Maryland.

THE GIST

- The Indian Ocean receives a lot of attention for its monsoonal circulation and the dramatic seasonal wind reversals to the north of the equator. But it's also unique because it has 'oceanic tunnels' connecting it to the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.
- The main impact of the monsoonal circulation is that the warm ocean, the heat content, and the atmospheric convection favour cyclogenesis over the north Indian Ocean. This leads to cyclones being formed during the pre-monsoon and the post-monsoon seasons.
- There is a lot of excitement right now about a rare August cyclone — named 'Asna' — born from the transition of a strong land-born depression onto the warm Arabian Sea. This is the first north Indian Ocean cyclone in August since 1981.

Discussion on CM's post refuses to die down as seniority debate begins

Ministers M.B. Patil and Shivanand Patil had different takes on who is more senior in the party, but insisted the Chief Minister's post is 'not vacant' at the moment

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU/MYSURU

Shivanand Patil. FILE PHOTO

M.B. Patil. FILE PHOTO

Even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's legal fight resumes in the High Court of Karnataka on Monday – where he has challenged the Governor granting sanction for his prosecution in connection with alleged irregularities in distribution of MUDA sites to his wife – the discussion around his possible successor refuses to die down. Sunday saw his senior Cabinet colleagues indulging in a talk on who is the "most senior" and eligible for the post.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil set off a debate by claiming seniority over Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who is learnt to be lobbying for the top post. However, Minister for Textiles, Sugarcane Development and Sugar Shivanand Patil countered Mr. M.B. Patil and stated that there were many senior leaders in the party and Mr. M.B. Patil would have to wait his turn. The exchange between the two, both from Vijayapura district, seemed to be part of a long-standing political one-upmanship between them, who have had a frosty relationship over the years.

Speculation around the Chief Minister's continuation in office and claims by seniors to be considered for the post commenced with former Minister and Administrative Reforms Commission chairperson R.V. Deshpande sparking off the debate on "seniority" last week.

Old one-upmanship

The discussion on Sunday began with a claim by Mr. M.B. Patil, who said that he could become the Chief Minister one day, but that he was not in a hurry. "I am not greedy. I am not planning to replace the current Chief Minister. If someone from Vijayapura has to become the Chief Minister, it will be me," he told reporters in Vijayapura on Sunday. He also said that he was senior to Mr. Jarkiholi and that the latter's frequent visits to Delhi were for administrative and not political reasons.

"There are several senior leaders in the party. I am also one of them. Seniority is not the only or a major yardstick," he said. "I have made it clear several times that Mr. Siddaramaiah will continue to be the Chief Minister. He will come out of all challenges, including the alleged MUDA scam. Some Opposition leaders may be thinking that he will be forced to quit. They will be disappointed," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivanand Patil had his own take on seniority. "There are several who are senior to Mr. M.B. Patil. I have no objection to him becoming the Chief Minister after the more senior leaders. I will be happy if seniors who have worked and built the party become the Chief Minister. There are several leaders like that," he said, but also added the refrain that "the chair is not vacant now." He clarified that he had neither plans nor aspirations to become the Chief Minister.

Speaking in Mysuru, Minister for Urban Development and a close associate of Mr. Siddaramaiah, Byrathi Suresh, rubbished all talk of change of the Chief Minister and said the post was "not vacant in Karnataka."

'Only after 2028'

In Belagavi, Mr. Jarkiholi said he had no dreams of becoming the Chief Minister before 2028. "I have the ambition to be the Chief Minister, but not by replacing Mr. Siddaramaiah. I have never claimed seniority," said Mr. Jarkiholi. "I hope and pray that Mr. Siddaramaiah continues as the Chief Minister. My followers may feel that I should become the Chief Minister, but it does not become a popular opinion. Some leaders may have ambitions, but it does not mean that they want to replace the Chief Minister now."

Amidst the talk over seniority among the Cabinet colleagues, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said that such discussions proved the point that there was a lot of discord and dissidence within the Congress. "It shows deep fissures in the Congress," Mr. Joshi told reporters in Hubballi.

End e-Swathu link with NIC, Priyank tells officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Directing officials to simplify the e-Swathu process in Karnataka, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday asked officials to end the involvement of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in the project.

Delay in documents

Taking objection to the delay in getting documents under e-Swathu that pertains to properties in rural areas, the Minister said: "Many complaints are being received about difficulties in getting the e-Swathu documents being distributed by gram panchayats. Cancel the contract of NIC in this process".

He pointed out that e-Swathu should have worked to benefit farmers and added that it has not been working well for the past eight months. Officials have failed to take any action or find alternatives.

"Efforts have to be made to ensure that e-Swathu documents are issued corruption-free. Documents should be provided quickly. The scheme should empower people and should be simplified too. While technology has made giant strides, the NIC, managed by the Centre, has been lagging in technology absorption," he said, adding that farmers are getting affected due to these issues.

E-Swathu is a web application developed by the State government to help in documentation of property ownership in rural areas.

Good rains trigger hopes of State exceeding kharif foodgrains production target

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Karnataka has set a target of 148.39 lakh tonnes of foodgrains production for 2024-25. This includes 112.03 lakh tonnes for the ongoing kharif season. FILE PHOTO

Good rainfall during the ongoing south-west monsoon has triggered hopes of Karnataka's foodgrains production exceeding the target for this kharif season after a below-par production last year owing to drought.

Despite concerns over crop losses owing to floods, officials of the Agriculture Department and farm experts are confident of the State exceeding the foodgrains production target this kharif season.

Karnataka has set a target of achieving foodgrains production of 148.39 lakh tonnes for the entire 2024-25. This includes 112.03 lakh tonnes for the ongoing kharif season, with cereals accounting for 97.32 lakh tonnes and pulses 14.71 lakh tonnes.

The State had set a target of sowing 82.48 lakh hectares for the kharif season, including 57.51 lakh hectares of food crops. The sowing target has been almost achieved, owing to good pre-monsoon rains from March to May that were 31% more than the average.

Hopes up

Scientists and officials have their hopes up since good harvest is not just about good rainfall, but timely coverage.

"After 2021, we have now witnessed good and timely rainfall that is essential for boosting agricultural production," observed H.S. Shivaramu, Research Director of University of Agricultural Sciences - Bengaluru.

Though Karnataka has witnessed crop losses owing to heavy rains and floods, Dr. Shivaramu is confident that the foodgrains production will exceed the target owing to the timely rains at different stages of crop production.

The State has received nearly 25% more rains under the south-west monsoon so far when compared with the average, says Dr. Shivaramu.

He says Karnataka can exceed the target for foodgrains production for the entire year this time, if the north-east monsoon too remains normal.

According to him, one of the crops whose production has got a boost this time is rice owing to healthy storage in reservoirs.

While Dr. Shivaramu predicts that the foodgrains production may exceed the target by 25% for the kharif season, Agriculture Department officials do not want to take a guess on the percentage though they are confident of exceeding the target.

G.T. Putra, Director of Agriculture Department, says that good and timely rainfall, timely distribution of sowing seeds, fertilisers, and active role played by agricultural extension officials will ensure that Karnataka exceeds its foodgrains production target for the kharif season.

He says the Agriculture Department is left with stocks of fertilizers and sowing seeds even now.

Food production during the kharif season is given importance in Karnataka as the south-west monsoon is the mainstay for the State's agri-weather system.

U.S. trip is personal and not political: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Amidst wild speculation about his upcoming one-week trip to the United States of America, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday had to clarify that this was a personal trip and had no political connections.

WhatsApp messages were being circulated on Sunday that Mr. Shivakumar was invited by Kamala Harris, U.S. Vice-President and nominee of the Democratic Party for the upcoming presidential race. A section of television channels also said that Mr. Shivakumar would also meet former President Barack Obama.

This forced Mr. Shivakumar to clarify: "I am travelling to the U.S.A. along with my family till September 15. The media reports that I am meeting Mr. Obama and Ms. Harris are incorrect. It is a personal visit".

Yettinahole project: VJNL set to take up pre-feasibility study to look for more water sources in Western Ghats

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The main pump house of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project at Doddanagara in Hassan district. K .BHAGYA PRAKASH

Officers of Visvesvaraya Jal Nigam Limited, the agency that is implementing the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project, are looking for sources to address the shortage of five tmcft of water to fulfill the project's objectives.

VJNL is taking up a pre-feasibility study of tapping water from streams further below Hongada Halla (729 mm), the deepest point of the Yettinahole project.

A few more streams in the Western Ghats will be tapped as part of further augmentation of the project that aims to carry water to drought-prone areas.

What CM promised

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, after inaugurating stage 1 of the project at Hebbanahalli in Sakleshpur taluk on Friday, said that there was a shortage of five tmcft of water, considering rain data of the last 10 years, which will be met by tapping into other sources. As per the plan, 24.01 tmcft will be lifted from west-flowing streams – Yettinahole, Kerihole, Kadumanehole, and Hongada Halla – to benefit people in parts of Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Ramanagara districts. Of the total available water, 14.056 tmcft is for drinking and the remaining to fill 527 tanks in these districts.

Sannachittaiah, Managing Director of VJNL, told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the agency had begun the process for further augmentation of the project. "We are floating tenders for the pre-feasibility study to look for sources beyond the lowest point. At present, Hogandahalla, where weir-7 is located, is the deepest point," the MD said.

He said the officers had identified streams from where water could be diverted directly to weir-7 and ensure flow by gravity.

"According to our preliminary study, by building diversion weirs at two locations, we can facilitate the flow of water by gravity to weir-7. Besides that, there are a couple of more sources from which water could be lifted. We are working out all possibilities," the MD explained.

Another senior official of the VJNL pointed out that the project was designed to tap 24.01 tmcft of water after a proper study, considering the discharge data measured at Bantwal (Dakshina Kannada).

"There is no need to worry about the shortfall at the moment. Once the pumping of water gets under way, we will get actual readings. The discussion of the shortfall is based on telemetry (real-time discharge measurement) readings, which do not cover certain areas," he pointed out.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Troubles en route to Yettinahole

Reporters and photographers trying to reach the inauguration site of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project felt that they were part of an obstacle race of sorts.

For a start, the bus meant to ferry reporters from Bengaluru to the inaugural event was a bit too small and people literally fell over each other to get a seat. Then, realising that the vehicle was inadequate, the organisers decided to put everyone in a bigger bus. But, as luck would have it, the bus broke down about 40 km from Hassan. The passengers were then herded into four vans. But then, one ran out of fuel and another one following close behind had to stop and help, before everyone finally reached the destination. Next day, there were reports that a vehicle bringing presspersons from Hassan met with an accident.

And if these were not enough, a decorated stage erected, from where delegates were suppose to offer 'bagina' to the river, fell down before the event.

However, when project officials described the problems they faced in completing the works in the tough terrain, the troubles of the presspersons seemed like a trifle.

Will Cabinet meet in Kalaburagi help?

RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge has appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to hold a State Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi on September 17. Coming amidst a row over allotment of five acres of land near Bengaluru in March 2024 to the Siddhartha Vihara Trust, linked to the Kharge family, this seems like a image boosting exercise. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has sought an explanation from the government on the matter.

Kalyana Karnataka region has been given a special status under Article 371 (J) of the Constitution. As much as ₹5,000 crore has been allotted in the State Budget (2024-25) for the region. Mr. Kharge has argued that a Cabinet meeting in his home district will contribute to the development of education, health, and basic infrastructure of the region. Similar meetings have been held in Kalaburagi in the past, intermittently, over the years.

How holding a Cabinet meeting will exactly benefit the region remains a moot question.

Temple visits galore

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah *(pictured)* has been visiting temples in the last few days, even as the High Court of Karnataka is hearing his petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's sanction for his prosecution in alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife Parvathi by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority.

The Chief Minister, generally not known to be a temple-hopper, offered special prayers at Sri Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru twice in less than four weeks. A few days ago, he visited Sri Malatesh temple at Ranebennur in Haveri district. Opposition party leaders have claimed that this is a sign of his nervousness over the court case.

K. Bhagya Prakash
Nagesh Prabhu

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
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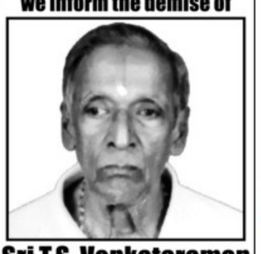

Sri T.S. Venkataraman
(Age: 91)
(EX DUNLOP TYRES
Chennai, Calcutta, Ranipet)
on the 6th of Sep. 2024.
In grief:
T.V. SRINIVAS (Son)
S. UMA (DIL)
Family & Friends
Mob: 9841293221, 9677261581

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You are always with us
Father : R.Ramesh Kumar
Mother : Dr.V.Vasanthy
Sister : Dr.R.Vineshykaa
Relatives & Friends

Sixteenth Anniversary

Smt. Padma M.Sundaram
(Retd., MET Dept., Chennai)
"You live in our hearts forever"
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ABSTRACT

Erratic climate: The view from YSR Colony in Vijayawada on September 8. G.N. RAO

How changes in the level of Arctic sea ice can change monsoon patterns in India

Unpredictable, erratic rainfall has become the norm for the Indian monsoon. New research reveals that less sea ice in the central Arctic leads to lower rain in western and peninsular India but more rain in central and northern India

Arkatapa Basu

Yadav, Juhi et al, 'Contrasting response of regional spring Arctic Sea ice variations on Indian summer monsoon rainfall', *Remote Sensing of Environment*, Vol 311, September 1, 2024.

Incessant rainfall has wreaked havoc in India's southeast, leaving at least 17 dead in Andhra Pradesh and thousands homeless and at the mercy of floods in Telangana. The Indian Meteorological Department has also warned of heavy rains in parts of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

Unpredictable, erratic rainfall has become the norm for the Indian monsoon. Once a bringer of relief and hope to the subcontinent, these rains are now a herald of drought and floods.

Climate change is an important reason why. However, a closer look into climate models shows the intricate play of surface temperature, pressure gradients, air currents and even sea ice that is responsible for bringing rain to the Indian landmass. In a study published in the journal *Remote Sensing of Environment* in June, researchers from India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and South Korea's Korea Polar Research Institute have found that seasonal changes in the Arctic sea ice affect the Indian monsoon as well.

Making of a monsoon

The Indian summer monsoon rainfall (ISMR) over the Indian subcontinent, from July to September, and with most of the rains recorded in July and August, is one of the most prominent monsoon systems in the world.

In summer months, sunlight warms the Central Asian and Indian landmass more and faster than the surrounding ocean. This creates a low pressure band at the Tropic of Cancer called the intertropical convergence zone. Trade winds blowing from the southeast are subsequently deflected towards the Indian landmass due to the Coriolis force and have low pressure after they cross the equator. As they blow over the Arabian Sea, the winds pick up moisture and deposit that as rain over India.

Over the landmass itself, this southwest monsoon splits into two. The Arabian Sea arm brings rain to the west coast while the other arm travels to the Bay of Bengal and brings rain to India's eastern and northeastern parts. The arms finally converge over Punjab and Himachal Pradesh as the Arabian Sea arm moves inward and the Bay of Bengal arm moves along the Himalaya.

The ISMR is much more complex than scientists first anticipated. In the last two decades, climate models have shown that the surface temperatures of the Indian, the Atlantic, and the Pacific Oceans affect the ISMR. The circum-global teleconnection (CGT), a large-scale atmospheric wave flowing at the mid-latitudes, seemed to significantly influence the monsoon as well.

The influence of Arctic sea ice

In recent years, scientists have also suggested that the declining levels of Arctic sea ice, due to climate change, could influence the monsoon's temperament. In the new study, researchers used observational data from 1980 to 2020 and climate models (specifically Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phases 5 and 6) to check how Arctic sea ice levels affect atmospheric circulations that in turn influence the ISMR.

The results revealed distinct and at times contrasting patterns. According to the paper, less sea ice in the central Arctic leads to lower rain in western and peninsular India but more rain in central and northern India. On the other hand, lower sea ice levels in the upper latitudes, particularly in the Barents-Kara Sea region encompassing the Hudson Bay, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Sea of Okhotsk, delay the monsoon's onset and render it more unpredictable.

Several atmospheric systems also influence this pattern. The scientists found that when sea ice levels in the central Arctic increase, the heat transferred from the ocean to the atmosphere triggers a cyclonic circulation at slightly lower latitudes, like in the north Atlantic. This bolsters the Rossby waves, fast-flowing streams of air high in the atmosphere created by the earth's rotation and differences in temperature and weather systems that move west to east. "To put it simply, imagine giant loops in a river of air high above us. These loops can push warm or cold air across the planet and steer storms around, changing weather patterns as they go," Avinash Kumar, an NCPOR scientist and one of the study's co-authors, told *The Hindu*. The enhanced Rossby waves result in high pressure over northwest India and low pressure over the Mediterranean region. This in turn strengthens a narrow, concentrated band of wind, called the Asian jet stream, over the Caspian Sea, causing the subtropical easterly jet – a jet stream blowing over the Indian subcontinent during summer – to shift northward. As a result, an anomalous high pressure region is created over Central Asia, disrupting atmospheric stability over the Indian landmass and bringing more rain over western and peninsular India.

On the other hand, low sea ice over the Barents-Kara Sea region triggers a series of air currents that produce an anomalous high pressure over southwest China. This correlates with a positive Arctic Oscillation – high pressure over the northern Atlantic and Pacific oceans along with a weakening of the CGT, which connects weather events in different parts of the world.

As sea ice levels decrease in the region, heat rises from the Barents-Kara sea, creating an anticyclonic circulation (calm, clear skies) over northwest Europe. This disturbs the upper atmospheric region over subtropical Asia and India.

This instability, coupled with high surface temperature of the Arabian Sea and the moisture picked up from the surrounding water bodies promotes high rainfall over northeastern India while leaving central and northwest regions of the country without much.

Does climate change also play a role?

Now that scientists know a little more about the forces that conspire to bring or withhold rain over India, what can we say about the role of climate change?

"Climate change, by accelerating the reduction of Arctic sea ice, exacerbates the variability and unpredictability of the ISMR," Dr. Kumar said. "Lower Arctic sea ice can lead to more frequent and severe droughts in some regions while causing excessive rainfall and flooding in others."

Apart from highlighting the physical pathways in which the Arctic sea ice affects the Indian monsoon, the current study shows the urgent need to expand research on climate dynamics and for scientists to prepare more accurate forecasts of the ever-changing monsoons.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

2024 has been a major year for elections. Here is a quiz on some elections that have already occurred this year

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Name the party that could not contest the Pakistan general elections held in February 2024, because its symbol was stripped by the election commission and yet, independents who contested with the support of the party emerged as the single largest grouping in the National Assembly.

QUESTION 2

January 2024 was the first time in Taiwan that a party won two consecutive presidential polls, after direct elections were introduced in 1996. Name the party and the candidate who went on to become the eighth president of Taiwan.

QUESTION 3

Name the candidate proposed for the post of Prime Minister by the New Popular Front which emerged as the single largest coalition in the French legislative elections. Instead of her, who was named by the President Emmanuel Macron?

QUESTION 4

For the first time since Apartheid ended in South Africa, the African National Congress won less than 50% of the vote in the 2024 general elections. Name the opposition party which finished second and with whom the ANC went on to form a national unity government.

QUESTION 5

The first El Salvador president who was re-elected since 1944; name this leader who won the elections held in February 2024, with 84.65% of the popular vote.

Visual question:
Name this newly elected parliamentarian. What was her achievement? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the September 6 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This process is primarily used to produce green hydrogen. **Ans: Electrolysis powered by renewable energy**
2. A key advantage of solid-state batteries over traditional liquid electrolyte batteries. **Ans: Increased energy density and increased safety**
3. The primary by-product of using hydrogen as a fuel in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. **Ans: Water vapour**
4. This country currently leads in electric vehicle adoption. **Ans: China**
5. The unique technique that is used in EVs to capture energy that the vehicle has due to its kinetic energy. **Ans: Regenerative Braking**
Visual: Identify this Nobel laureate. **Ans: John. B. Goodenough**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Ashraf Basha| Tamal Biswas| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Atul Gaur

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He is very inept at his new job

I am going to have a bit of a lie-in today as I just ran a marathon in the morning

S. Upendran

"Tell me, how do you pronounce i...n...e...p...t?"

"The first syllable sounds like the word 'in', while the 'ept' sounds like the 'ept' in 'slept', 'kept' and 'wept'. The word is pronounced in-EPT with the stress on the second syllable. Any idea what it means?"

"Doesn't it mean not very skilful? When you're 'inept', you're not good at something."

"Very good! That's exactly what it means. When you say that someone is inept, what you're suggesting is that the individual is terrible at what he does. *Naresh went to an inept accountant, and ended up losing all his money.*"

"I was told by several people that Jai is an inept dentist."

"Really? I've gone to him a couple of times, and I've had no problems with him. 'Inept' can also be used to mean not very capable or clumsy. *The Vice Chancellor's inept remarks led to the students going on strike.*"

"The UN has often been criticised for its inept handling of the West Asia problem."

"One can also be 'inept at' something. *Rajiv is quite inept at sports.*"

"I'm quite inept at dealing with mechanical problems."

"I think everyone knows that! You're also socially inept."

"Socially inept? Are you saying that I'm not good at dealing with people?"

"Yes! A person who is socially inept finds it difficult to interact with people. He feels uncomfortable in their presence. *Please don't send Sujatha to meet our clients. She's socially inept.*"

"How about this example? In the presence of women, Suresh becomes socially inept."

"Sounds good! What's a socially inept person like Harish doing in the marketing department?"

"One of the advantages of being the CEO's nephew, I suppose? It was a pretty hectic week at the office. Interested in an early morning trek tomorrow?"

"No chance! I plan to lie in till noon tomorrow."

"Lie in? Lie on what?"

"When you 'lie in', you stay in bed longer than you normally do."

"In other words, you sleep longer than you usually do."

"It doesn't necessarily mean to sleep longer than usual. All it means is you remain in bed longer than usual. I woke up around seven, but decided to lie in."

"When I was in school, my parents never allowed me to lie in. I was promptly woken up at six o'clock."

"By the way the expression 'lie in' can also be used as a noun. Tomorrow being a holiday, my friend Sunitha is planning to have a bit of a lie-in."

"It's difficult to have a lie-in when you have two small kids at home."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Ensconce:
fix firmly

Synonym: settle

Usage: *He ensconced himself in front of the television.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ensconcepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɛn'skɒns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Revisiting Haripura Panels and the vivid brush strokes of Indian history

The Haripura Panels are considered one of the most famous works of Nandalal Bose. Of the 400 panels that were drawn for the exhibition, 77 are currently on display in the city

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

"A man who could make art out of anything" was how Mahatma Gandhi addressed Nandalal Bose, the legendary artist from West Bengal. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Delhi houses 6,800 paintings of Bose who made even the Indian Constitution his canvas. The 22 hand-drawn illustrations that adorn the pages of the first Indian Constitution manuscript were commissioned to Bose and his team.

Haripura Panels, commissioned by none other than Gandhi himself for the Haripura Congress in 1938, is one of the most famous works of Bose whose works have been declared as National Treasures. Of the 400 panels that were drawn for the exhibition 77 are currently on display at the National Gallery of Modern Arts, Bengaluru.

Art as a uniting force

In 1936, the 50th session of the Indian National Congress was held in Faizpur, presided over by Nehru. The first Congress session in a backward rural setting drew peasants in large numbers and saw a record participation. Bose had an important role in designing the pavilion of the Faizpur Congress in 1936.

"After the Faizpur Congress, Gandhi realised the potential of art to unite people, and he thought it could be further exploited at the Haripura Congress. So, he insisted on an exhibition by Bose," says art historian Dr. Deepak Kannal while leading a Haripura Panels Walk at NGMA, Bengaluru.

"The corpus of work was so large and it was not easy to do it in the given time. But he took the challenge and fulfilled it," he adds.

According to writings by eminent artist K.G. Subramanyan, who was also a disciple of Bose, 400 painted wall insets or posters were created, of which about 100 were done by Bose himself and the rest by his associates.

'Chrysanthemum with a Gray bird'

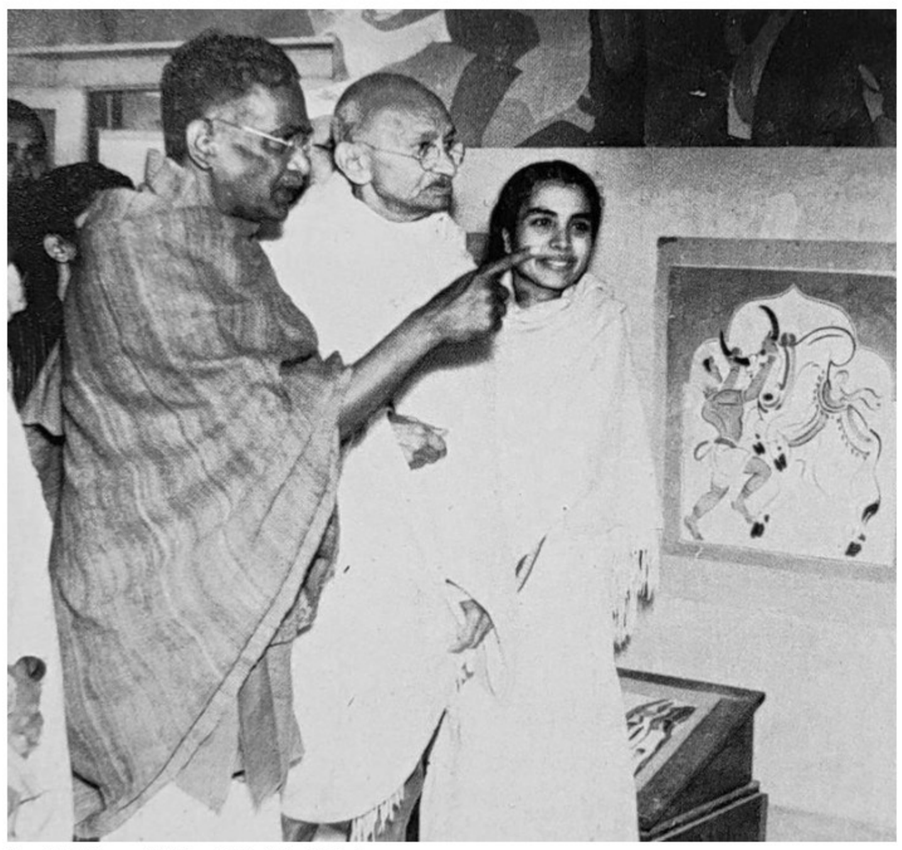
'Rudra Veena'

The paintings depicted the everyday lives of rural Indians so that the masses could connect to them.

Master Moshai

Addressed as *master moshai* by his beloved, Bose nourished the artist in him under the tutelage of Abanindranath Tagore. Later he also became the principal of Kala Bhavan at Shanti Niketan.

"The efforts of the Bengal School of Art were to revive the Indian language in art. They tried to study Indian miniature art, Ajanta paintings and so on, and imbibe those elements into contemporary paintings. It was very similar to neoclassicism in 19th century France when French artists tried to revive the Greek and Roman classical idiom during Napolean's reign," explains Kannal.



Nandalal Bose with Gandhiji at Santiniketan

'Mughal Warrior'

In India, in the early 20th century, the Swadeshi movement gained momentum with its epicentre being Bengal. This reflected in the art of the period and largely in the Bengal school.

According to Kannal, the Haripura Panels are not only Swadeshi, but contemporary Swadeshi.

"It was an outcome of a pan-Indian and a retrospective understanding of visual arts. Nanda Babu not only borrowed from Ajanta, Mughal or Rajasthani paintings, but he tried to understand Indian art and its language in retrospective and introduce that language in these Haripura panels."

'Tiller of the soil'

Multiple sources

After Gandhiji's briefing, Bose stayed at Vithal Nagar near Haripura several days before the Congress and travelled widely.

Kannal believes that during this period he must have come across the manuscript paintings in Gujarat.

Pointing to the panels where Bose seems to have borrowed elements and physiognomic features seen in Jain paintings, Kannal talks about the rich manuscript painting collection in Gujarat and the probability of Bose being inspired by the Jain folios there. Influences of Eastern style, Ragamala paintings and even European style are seen in some of the panels.

'Cotton Spinning' from Haripura Panels

Stylistically quite different from each other, a decorative arch is common to all the paintings giving them a uniform identity.

Dr. Deepak Kannal at NGMA, Bengaluru.

"I really admire that he has formulated this idiom very carefully. He has borrowed from so many sources, and unless you are conversant with these traditions deeply, you will not notice that. The amalgam is so beautiful," Kannal states.

Some of Bose's most famous works include Gandhi's linocut art and his murals on the walls of Kirti Mandir in Vadodara. Kannal observes that his more ambitious works appear a little static and rigid, probably as a result of composing them too carefully and consciously.

"Natir Puja, a poem by Gurudev, was illustrated by Nanda Babu and converted to murals on the walls of Kirti Mandir. If you see those murals, they are very static. There's hardly any pattern."

"In the illustrations he used for the Constitution, you don't find passion or fervour. You see a very calculated technique there. He borrows from several sources, but only when you borrow intuitively, it becomes lively. If you borrow in a calculative manner perhaps it kind of becomes a potpourri," Kannal observes.

The style Bose adopted for Haripura Panels, however, is markedly different. "The application of colours, the palette that he selects, everything is lively. He introduces a totally fresh idiom to Indian painting," says Kannal, who nevertheless adds that this is not only limited to the Haripura panels, but several other works of Bose divulge tremendous spontaneity and liveliness.

A fresh idiom

While one of the common notions about the Haripura posters is that the style has been borrowed from folk art, Kannal differes from it.

"I think the kind of complexity he has in his idiom is not from the folk arts. Folk element is there, but it's not only folk."

"I think he borrows profusely from the classical tradition too. That is why it is a retrospective and pan-Indian understanding of Indian art. He chooses from every corner of the country and every period of history. He borrows from Ajanta, manuscript paintings of Rajasthan, and profusely from Jain paintings."

The panels are also an interesting combination of traditional school and Company school. The subject matter in many of the panels has been borrowed from the Bazaar paintings that come under Company School, Kannal points out.

Bazaar paintings which featured landscapes, monuments, Indian people, their occupations and activities, and flora and fauna were created in large numbers during the British colonial era to cater to British and urban Indian tastes.

"In many of the Haripura Panels, the idea is borrowed from the Company School and the idiom from the Traditional School," Kannal notes, adding that the Shanti Niketan painting style after Haripura Panels was deeply influenced by this idiom and could be seen in the works of those including KGS.

Artist Carlos Amorim to showcase his work in Bengaluru

An art piece by Carlos Amorim. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Artist Carlos Amorim from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will showcase his work at the Indian Institute of Cartoonists, Bengaluru, from September 9 to 21.

Carlos started publishing his works in 1984 at Pasquim, a humoristical newspaper. He has published his editorials cartoons, caricatures and comic strips in many Brazilian newspapers and magazines.

According to a press release, Carlos has even produced humour texts (1994) and animations (2004) for the television net RedeGlobo and he is the author of a cartoon book called CanastraSuja (1991).

Carlos's works have been awarded in many events as Salão Internacional de Humor/ 2004 (Teresina/ Brasil), Prêmio Internacional de Humor Gráfico Peloduro/ 2004 (Minas- Uruguai), Ranan Lurie Cartoon Awards/2001 (New York-EUA), Turismovision/2001 (Stuttgart - Alemanha), and many more. He has even participated in several humour contests and exhibitions in France, Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, México, Turkey, Iran, Israel, Italia, Cuba and Japan. He had individual exhibitions of cartoons in Brazil and abroad.

The exhibition is free for the public till September 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Bangalore University launches mentorship programme for BCA students

So far 26 alumni have volunteered to mentor students over the next three years

Jayanth R.
BENGALURUS

In a first-of-its-kind measure, Bangalore University has launched the Industry-Alumni Mentorship Programme for the Bachelor of Computer Application students at the Jnanabharati campus from the 2024-25 academic year.

The Department of Computer Science has reached out to several alumni and requested their voluntary participation in mentoring five BCA students each over the next three years.

So far, 26 alumni have volunteered to mentor students over the next three years. Among them, five reside in the United States of America (U.S.A.), one is in the Gulf region, and one is an international mentor.

Across the globe

Bangalore University introduced the Master of Computer Application in 1992, and since then, graduates from there have been employed by numerous Information Technology companies across the globe.

From this academic year, the university has initiated three specialisations in BCA, namely Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI&ML) and Full Stock Development. GETTY IMAGES

From this academic year, the university has initiated three specialisations in BCA, namely Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI&ML) and Full Stock Development and decided to enlist voluntary participation of alumni in a mentoring programme.

Muralidhara B.L., senior professor of the Department of Computer Science and Applications, said, "Through this programme, we aim to educate students on the latest technologies, industry expectations and industry standards. The mentors also help students in their projects, internships, and placements."

Enhancing value

He said the mentorship programme will significantly enhance the value of the BCA course and provide students with valuable industry insights. "The students will connect with them virtually. When they come to Bengaluru, they will be connected directly."

"The alumni, who are living in Bengaluru, will connect with them directly and sometimes virtually too," he added.

Industry Alumni Mentorship programme, Prof. Muralidhara said, is a pioneering initiative in India, made possible by the generous contributions of 26 alumni who have volunteered to mentor students for the next three years. "Our mentors are highly experienced professionals holding influential positions in prestigious companies worldwide. We believe this mentorship programme will significantly enhance the value of our BCA course and provide our students with invaluable industry insights," he explained.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 9, 1974

Land Ownership for Five Lakh Tenants

Bangalore, Sept. 9. The Karnataka Land Reforms Act (as amended), which had come into force, is expected to confer ownership on five lakh tenants, and land owners have been outlined in a press note. In regard to land transactions, the public have been asked to exercise caution. An agriculturist land cannot be sold to or acquired by way of purchase, sale, exchange, lease, gift or as mortgage from (i) a non agriculturist, an agriculturist already holding lands as owner of the tenant over the ceiling limit. (iii) a non-agricultural labourer (iv) a person or a family having annual income of more than Rs. 12,000 from non-agricultural sources (v) a company, (vi) an association and (vii) certain types of co-operative societies.

Preventive Steps Against Rabies Suggested

Bangalore, Sept. 8: The magnitude of the problem of rabies and the importance of preventive measures were highlighted at a symposium on rabies organised by the Lions Club of Bangalore West here today.

The Education Minister, Mr. M. Mallikarjuna Swamy, who inaugurated the symposium, wished that the Government and local self-government institutions helped in preventing dog bites.

In Bangalore, during 1973, as many as 9,000 persons were vaccinated at the Victoria Hospital alone for rabies. Of the 60 proved cases which were admitted to the Isolation Hospital mortality was cent percent.

CITYBEATS

One of a kind

ONGOING
The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition, organised by Maaruthi Enterprises is displaying a range of handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, home decor, Rajasthani malmal and pashminas from Kashmir. The platform showcases the work of rural artisans from the eastern part of India.
At Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, Kothanur Main Road and JP Nagar. Call 89518 99961.

Domed delight

ON WEEKENDS
Orion Mall, in partnership with Epic Quest Entertainment Pvt Ltd, has installed an innovative 360 degree super immersive dome theatre. The theatre will screen films such as *Aladdin - The Bachelor Party, Moby Dick - Friends to the Rescue,* and more.
At Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway, 11am to 9pm. Tickets available at the mall.

Daily bread

ONGOING
Toast & Tonic has reintroduced classic breads with fresh, bold flavours and locally sourced ingredients. Breads such as the Turkish pide, Chinese bao, Italian flatbread and more can be enjoyed with guava picante and banana bread and other specials.
Till September 30, at Toast & Tonic, Wood Street, Ashok Nagar. Call 9148254262.

Surround sound Many Moons was an immersive experience. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Taking music to a new space

Singer-composer Bindhumalini's show Many Moons traversed through multiple sounds, genres, and ideas

Charumathi Supraja

'Many Moons' by Bindhumalini inhabited the liminal spaces between sound and music, cognitive understanding and intuitive knowing. The layered musical experience offered at Courtyard Koota, Bengaluru, during their sixth anniversary celebrations, invited audiences to travel softly through shape-shifting soundscapes, revisiting assumptions about what makes music.

Beginning with a meditative immersion into a sound sculpture or musical installation, the programme led the audience towards a new space of listening to and thinking about music in its second part, which was somewhat like a concert but not quite.

Moving from silence, sounds and musical question marks to lyric-free melodies, tune tributes and formal compositions, 'Many Moons' treated audiences to a heart to heart between disparate entities in music making, without a trace of dissonance. Does sound have to be arranged for music to emerge? How does the heart instinctively hear oneness in harmony that actually has notes from different registers as its building blocks? These were just some of the questions that came up.

The first few offerings of the concert were happily unrestricted by words and carried their foundations in ancient knowledge structures ever so lightly. The singers Bindhumalini and Gurupriya Atreya effectively employed body rhythms and humming, serving up music with generous helpings of ta-ra-ra-ras and la-la-la-las to the vibrant strumming (sometimes singing, sometimes sound-making) by classical guitarist Abhaydev Praful.

The composition 'My sweet golden moon' paid tribute to Illayaraaja's 'Yen iniya ponn nilave' while baring the intimate connection between music and memories.

'Rain and smoke' was energetic and continued in the style of swara-strings. 'Auto-tune,' it turned out, was so titled because it was created in an auto – not because it was a lofty contemplation on the relationship between music and spontaneity.

These pieces defied classification though they

resonated with multiple musical genres including jazz, classical music and film music. They displayed the scope of the human voice to be a musical instrument, possibly even an extension of the human mind when it is not feeling stuck in its cerebral duties. The music was playful, often dismissing language and opening avenues for the audience to make its own meaning of melody, rhythm and the dots that may or may not join them.

The next few pieces echoed familiarity – one a song of lament, another a lullaby, and the third – a timeless classical composition, all set to the Carnatic raga Bhairavi. While the first two were presented in snatches, the magnificent 'Kamakshi' was presented as the grand finale, in all fullness. This piece came as a complete surprise, even stoking resistance in my mind, attuned by then to the explorative approach of the concert. Yet, how long can the heart or head hold out against Bhairavi and such a rich ode to the divine feminine as is 'Kamakshi'? Also, by the end, the concert held out its promise of leaving loose ends untied, which felt just right.

Bindhumalini marvels at the "magic, hiding in plain sight," while speaking of an "underlying unity of notes" in what is called Natabhairavi in Carnatic music, Asavari in Hindustani music and the Natural Minor scale in Western music. Having stumbled on a host of cross-cultural approaches to this scale during research for another musical composition, she delved further into Natabhairavi's offshoots and worldwide avatars to make 'Many Moons'. She wished for the processes behind the show to be seen, for the output to be "a warm welcome into a shared experience" than a "display" of the raga's range and manifestations.

For Bindhumalini, the "common space of shared creativity" is greater than the individual artistes and their talents

This was the intent behind sharing with the audience – playlists from the research phase and voice recordings from other musicians on their relationship with the scale, both of which played outside the venue, before and after the show. The audience was also invited to soak in "the study material" that got created and then became the musical installation, a crucial part of the programme.

She credits team Courtyard Koota led by Natasha Iype with enabling such open-ended, experimental work; with showering "mad trust" alongside other team members like Priyanka Chandrasekar, Divya Sarangan, Sridhar Varadarajan and others who worked on production, research, editing, sound and other aspects of the show.

Bindhumalini carries many accolades earned at the national and international level with much lightness, makes music for films, sometimes works as an actor in the theatre and engages deeply with multiple musical genres through performance, composition and research. She's constantly collaborating with musicians and artistes from diverse backgrounds because, she says, it opens a "common space of shared creativity" that is greater than the individual artistes and their talents.

She shares a story from her life while speaking about the title of the show. She and her friend had gleefully gotten away to the terrace to view the moon. They both didn't have their glasses (that they needed) but saw what they saw in the moon – each her own way, even describing it with much delight to the other. Though there was a single moon in the sky, they feasted together on many moons. This is the essence she sought to bring into 'Many Moons', says Bindhumalini.

Archana bids adieu

Kalyan Ashok

Olympian Archana Kamath, one of the top table tennis players in the country, has bid goodbye to the sport. The 24-year-old from Bengaluru, Archana who was perhaps the most talented women's table tennis player that Karnataka has produced, decided to call it a day to pursue higher studies in the United States.

She had recently participated in the Paris Olympics and felt it was the time to hang up her racket for a master's programme in public policy at the University of Michigan.

Archana's decision to retire so early came as a surprise to table tennis fans and her former coach Bona Thomas John, who says, "It was indeed a surprise for me when she revealed her plans after returning from the Olympics. I hope she does keep playing even while she is in the United States."

Her father, Girish Kamath, backed her decision saying, "We have always supported Archana in sports and academics and she has been a good student. It was her wish to focus on higher studies."

It was a meteoric rise for Archana when after winning several regional events, she became the national women's champion at the age of 18 in 2018. From then on, there was no looking back. She represented India at several international platforms including the World Championship, Commonwealth Championship, Asian Championship and Youth Olympic Games. Archana and her partner Manika Batra held the fourth place in the world doubles rankings a few years ago.

Single-minded focus Archana Kamat at team round of 16, during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Archana's crowning moment, however, was participating in the Paris Olympics – it was memorable and left a long-lasting impression on her as the first table tennis player from Karnataka to represent the country in the Olympics. The decision to bid adieu to the game she loved so passionately was a difficult one.

She says, "I've been interested in academics since childhood and have always visualised myself as a full-time student at some point in my life, but I took the decision to do it now, after the Olympics. I would like to add though, that it was not an easy decision and I took it after a lot of contemplation."

> I've always loved being a part of the National team, and I will cherish that experience forever.
> **ARCHANA KAMAT**
> Table tennis player

Archana says, "The Paris 2024 Olympics was a wonderful experience. It was an honour to be able to give my best for my country. I thoroughly enjoyed being in the team with Manika, Sreeja and Ayhika. We unfortunately could not win against Germany, but we all fought and gave our best in the team quarterfinals."

"The most memorable moment of my career is definitely the Paris Olympic Games. I've always loved being a part of the National team, and I will cherish that experience forever."

With regards to the future, Archana says, "I will definitely try my best to keep in touch with the game, but I honestly don't know where my program will lead me a few years down the line. I will try my best to serve my country in whatever way I can."

A harmonica homage

Decades ago in Detroit, Sulaiman Jamal's musical journey took an unexpected turn when he crossed paths with Jerry Murad of the legendary Harmonicats at a harmonica convention. Murad, impressed by Sulaiman's potential, urged him to continue playing the chromatic harmonica, emphasising its versatility and emotional depth. Though Sulaiman had momentarily stepped away from the instrument, Murad's encouragement reignited his passion, and this upcoming concert is a long-awaited tribute to the man who inspired him.

The concert will take audiences on a nostalgic journey, featuring classic Broadway and cinema

Melody makers Sulaiman Jamal and the Harmonicats (above). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

themes from beloved productions like *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

In addition to these iconic show tunes, the evening will include performances of timeless hits from The Beatles, Leonard Cohen, and Simon and Garfunkel, along with a mix of big band, blues, and folk numbers.

Sulaiman Jamal, who hails from Coimbatore and now resides in Bengaluru, will lead the ensemble on the harmonica. He will be joined by an impressive line-up of musicians, including Jagadeesh MR on guitar, vocalist Madhuri Jagadeesh, mandolin and violin player Orlando DeNorohna, and many more accomplished artists.

This highly diverse musical performance is a heartfelt homage to Jerry Murad and a celebration of the harmonica's beauty.

At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. On September 12, 7pm to 9pm. Free Entry on a First Come First Served basis on RSVP and availability.

Tulu added to Unicode

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Tulu, a common language spoken in parts of Karnataka and Kerala, has been added to the Unicode by the Unicode Consortium, the United States, to which many countries are members. Several proposals for its inclusion were submitted to the Unicode Technical Committee.

U.B. Pavanaja, a senior IT expert, who was among the persons who toiled for its inclusion told *The Hindu* on Sunday, "Finally Tulu language spoken by over three million people has been added to the Unicode."

"Tulu has been added in the Unicode Standard, Version 16.0," Mr. Pavanaja, who is the founder and editor of www.vishvakannada.com, which is the first online Kannada magazine, said. The Unicode 16.0 is slated for release on Tuesday. Unicode is a standard for storing characters of all languages in Information Technology. The Unicode Consortium is the standardisation body, he said.

Mr. Pavanaja, the admin of both Tulu and Kannada Wikipedia, said that 80 Tulu characters have been added to the Unicode last week. He said that when he visited the Unicode Consortium in 2001 to help in correcting Kannada in Unicode, he had appealed to include Tulu in Unicode. Then the Consortium had asked him to send a proposal.

After Tulu Wikipedia went live on August 6, 2016, Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy in Mangaluru realised the need of Unicode for Tulu. It formed a committee to finalise the Tulu characters in Tulu script and send a proposal to the Consortium. Mr. Pavanaja was the technical advisor of the committee which sent the proposal.

Meanwhile, another proposal (not from the academy) was sent for the inclusion as Tulu-Tigalari script. Some other proposals too were sent. Finally, Tulu script has been added to the Unicode under the name Tulu-Tigalari.

Referring to the further steps to be taken, he said that a keyboard with Tulu font will have to be developed.

Burglary bid foiled on Avenue Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An alert security guard and swift police action foiled a burglary attempt at two jewellery shops on Avenue Road in the early hours of Sunday, September 8.

Around 2 a.m., a group of six masked individuals targeted Sankeshwara Jewellers and Dharmesh Jewellers. They turned off the CCTV cameras by cutting the wires to the DVRs and forced open the shutter doors using a sharp tool and a hammer.

A nearby security guard noticed the suspicious activity and immediately contacted the police control room. A Hoysala patrolling team was dispatched and arrived at the scene within minutes. The sound of the police siren apparently alerted the burglars, causing them to flee before entering the shops.

Halasuru Gate Police arrived, inspected the scene, and registered a case. They are now analyzing CCTV footage from nearby areas to identify potential suspects and their mode of transportation.

Visakhapatnam, suburbs face rain fury; alert for 9 Telangana districts

Life affected as many streams are overflowing; Andhra Pradesh sets up control rooms to monitor the situation; officials take up repairs of gate no. 69 of the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada; IMD predicts heavy rains in north coastal A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA/HYDERABAD

Submerged: A railway track near Vijayawada has been flooded in the heavy rain on Sunday; flood water being released from the Mahbub Sagar Tank in Sangareddy district of Telangana on Sunday. G.N. RAO; MOHD. ARIF

Incessant rain has been lashing Visakhapatnam city and its suburbs in Andhra Pradesh since Saturday night, causing waterlogging and disrupting life at various places on Sunday.

A report by the district administration said that by 2 p.m. on Sunday, Bheemunipatnam recorded 87 mm of rainfall, followed by Maharanipeta at 74 mm, Seethammadhara at 72 mm, and Anandapuram at 68 mm. Padmanabham, Gopalapatnam, Gajuwaka, Pendurthi and a few other areas recorded 40 to 60 mm.

Boundary walls collapsed at Kancharapalem and CBM compound, damaging several vehicles parked over there and some electric poles.

Geddas (streams) were seen overflowing at HB Colony, Isukathota, Akkayyapalem and a few other areas. Sanitation staff were engaged in clearing the debris in drains at many places.

The road underbridge at Gnanapuram was closed and traffic was diverted.

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Commissioner P. Sampath Kumar asked the officials to shift the people residing in hilly and low-lying areas to rehabilitation centres.

A minor landslip was reported at Ramakrishna Nagar, a hilly area in Gopalapatnam, and the residents were asked to vacate their houses. Visakhapatnam West MLA PGVR Naidu alias Ganababu was monitoring the situation. The district administration has set up control rooms at the Collector's office and at 11 tahsildar offices.

Streams overflowing

All the places in Alluri Sitharama Raju district have also been experiencing heavy rain since Saturday night. By Sunday morning, Araku recorded over 30 mm of rainfall.

Munchingputtu, Pedabayalu, Dumbriguda, Araku Valley, Ananthagiri, Hukumpeta, Paderu have been reporting incessant rain.

With streams and *geddas* overflowing under Paderu limits, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officer V. Abhishek urged the tribal people not to venture out unless it was an emergency.

Four gates closed

Meanwhile, Water Resources Department (WRD) officials took up repairs of gate no. 69 of the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada. The officials fixed a metal box to repair the counterweight of the gate on Saturday. It would take another two or three days to complete the repairs.

The counterweight of the gate broke when a boat from upstream of the barrage drifted towards it and crashed into the gate on September 2. In the incident, the counterweight broke into two pieces. The counterweight was removed three days later. The WRD officials have set a target of completing the repairs within a week.

Another two boats were stuck near the 67, 68 and 69 gates. The boats are obstructing the free flow of floodwater being discharged from the barrage. The officials closed four gates to take up the repairs and to remove the boats stuck near the gates.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast very heavy rain with extremely heavy rains at one or two places in north coastal Andhra Pradesh on Sunday and Monday. NTR and Krishna districts are also expected to receive heavy rain on Monday as the well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal has concentrated into a depression and lay centered at 5.30 a.m. over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, east of Kalingapatnam.

"It is very likely to move northwestwards towards north Odisha-West Bengal coast and intensify into a deep depression during next 24 hours," the IMD bulletin said.

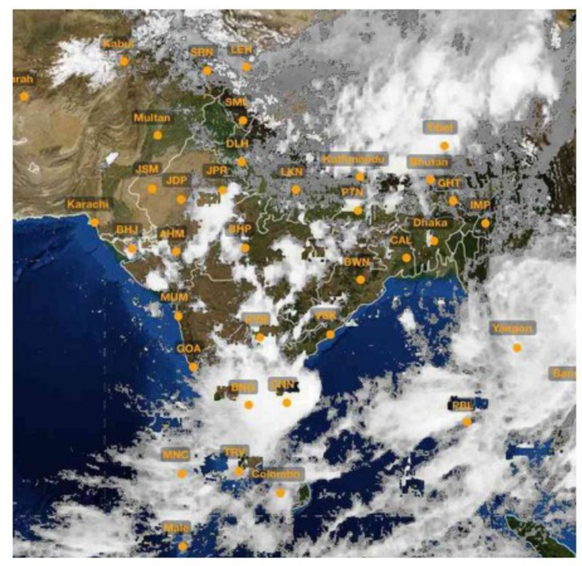
The IMD issued an orange alert in two districts and yellow alert in seven districts of Telangana for Monday.

According to the IMD bulletin, isolated areas in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad and Mancherial are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rain (orange alert), while heavy rain (yellow alert) is expected in isolated areas of Adilabad, Nirmal, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, and Khammam.

Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds are likely to occur in isolated places across all districts of Telangana. In Hyderabad and its surrounding areas, a generally cloudy sky is expected over the next 24 hours, with light to moderate rain or thunderstorms likely. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 19 degrees Celsius and 23 degrees Celsius, respectively.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls very likely at isolated places over Odisha and Coastal Andhra Pradesh; Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Telangana. Thunderstorm accompanied with lighting and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Telangana.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	35.4	26.0	Kozhikode	8.0	32.0	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.7	26.7	Kurnool	0.3	29.2	24.5
Aizawl	33.0	34.1	23.1	Lucknow	17	36.0	26.9
Allahabad	—	37.8	28.0	Madurai	—	38.8	26.3
Bengaluru	—	28.2	21.0	Mangaluru	10	27.8	24.6
Bhopal	5.0	31.7	24.0	Mumbai	7.4	31.9	25.8
Bhubaneswar	54.0	33.2	24.5	Mysuru	9.0	30.0	—
Chandigarh	—	33.4	25.4	New Delhi	14.0	28.0	24.4
Chennai	—	32.1	26.5	Patna	—	36.2	29.2
Coimbatore	—	32.3	23.6	Port Blair	7.0	30.5	24.3
Dehradun	0.6	33.0	23.8	Puducherry	—	35.7	25.7
Gangtok	1	26.1	18.4	Pune	—	31.1	24.4
Goa	0.9	30.4	25.6	Raipur	29.0	34.0	26.3
Guwahati	—	37.2	26.0	Ranchi	—	31.2	24.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.9	18.1
Hyderabad	—	31.0	22.0	Shimla	3	23.2	16.2
Imphal	—	32.9	24.5	Srinagar	—	29.4	14.5
Jaipur	5.0	28.8	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	2	31.2	25.6
Kochi	18.0	30.0	24.8	Tiruchi	—	33.3	27.6
Kohima	12.0	28.8	18.2	Vijayawada	29	27.0	25.2
Kolkata	12.0	34.6	26.5	Visakhapatnam	73.0	27.8	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..38	23	... 111	98	
Bengaluru	...6	..24	80	 46	48	
Chennai	...5	..24	14	 61	57	
Delhi	.13	..43	45	 72	...209	
Hyderabad	...9	..13	33	 46	78	
Kolkata	.11	..66	26	 22	31	
Lucknow	.11	..10	41	 90	58	
Mumbai	...2	8	28	 48	61	
Pune	...8	..19	70	 33	34	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..34	17	 75	52	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 220 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sasaram, Bihar recorded a healthy AQI score of 16.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.
N-235-62 TELE TENDER-02-2024

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ. N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document. **(1)** Tender Notice No.: N-235-62 Tele Tender-02-2024, **(2)** Name of work: Supply & Installation of various Telecom Assets for development of telecom facilities in Disaster Management Room at Central Control PCOM office, Gorakhpur, North Eastern Railway. **(3)** Tender Value: ₹ 34,49,995.52, (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninty Five and Fifty Two paisa only). **(4)** Bid Security: ₹ 69,000/-, **(5)** Validity of Offer: 60 Days. **(6)** Place, Date & Time of closing and opening of Tender: Office of the DSTE/Tele, N.E. Rly, Gorakhpur. 04-10-2024 at 15:00 Hrs. **(7)** Completion Period: 03 (Three) Months. **(8)** For any changes of tender, Please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. **(9)** Detailed tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website ***http://www.ireps.gov.in***

Note:- The Tenderer,s/bidders must upload all relevant attachments/Format/Annexure along with their bid.

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Eng./Tele/Hq Gorakhpur
CPRO/Signal-38

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, कोडरमा।
अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या:- 07/2024-25/RWD/EE/KODERMA दिनांक :-05.09.2024

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, कोडरमा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेन्डर कॉल
1.	RWD/KODERMA/24/2024-25	प्रखण्ड कोडरमा अंतर्गत डोइंयाडीह देवी मण्डप से गड़ाण्डी पीएम0जीएस0वाई0 रोड भाया कोनियाआम तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–1.450 कि0मी0)	1,37,92,400/-	एक करोड़ सैंतीस लाख बानवे हजार चार सौ रू0 मात्र।	09 (नौ) माह	प्रथम
2.	RWD/KODERMA/25/2024-25	प्रखण्ड सतगांवा अंतर्गत ग्राम समयडीह से बरदैया तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–1.700 कि0मी0)	1,73,93,800/-	एक करोड़ तिहतर लाख तिरानवे हजार आठ सौ रू0 मात्र।	09 (नौ) माह	प्रथम
3.	RWD/KODERMA/26/2024-25	प्रखण्ड सतगांवां अंतर्गत ग्राम योगीडीह उप स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र से रंगीनियां तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं0–1.800 कि0मी0)	1,98,17,900/-	एक करोड़ अंठानवे लाख सतरह हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र।	09 (नौ) माह	प्रथम

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:–12.09.2024
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:–23.09.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:–25.09.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,कार्य प्रमण्डल, कोडरमा झारखण्ड, पिन– 825410
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 8709561933/06534-297102
6. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
8. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–शुल्क भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, कोडरमा।

PR 334965 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

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Important Dates

Application Close - September 19, 2024

For detailed selection process and to apply,
visit https://ntcpwc.iitm.ac.in/dmscmba
Contact : 7021659509, 9820340418

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client, **SHIVAKUMARA. C**, intent to purchase Immovable Vacant Property bearing **Site No.481, BBMP Katha No.12/481/481, Old No.481/481,** the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, situated at **14th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi Layout,** Bangalore now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.129, **measuring East to West:12.00 Meters and North to South: 9.00 Meters, in all measuring 108 Square Meters** Which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder, from the Vendor **SHARMILA SHARMA** W/o Narsi Kumar Sharma , and also entered into a Sale Agreement dated 29-08-2024. Therefore, any Person or Persons, Institutions, Organization, and Financial Institutions having any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in respect of the Schedule Property stated hereunder may file their written objections along with evidentiary proof before the undersigned within **15 days** from the application of this Public Notice failing which my client shall construe that there is no form of encumbrance or objection of any sort from anyone to the said Transaction and complete the Sale Transaction free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the Immovable Property bearing **Site No.481, BBMP Katha No.12/481/481, Old No.481/481,** the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, situated at **14th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi Layout,** Bangalore now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.129, **measuring East to West: 12.00 Meters and North to South: 9.00 Meters, in all measuring 108 Square Meters** and bounded as follows:

East by : Road,
West by : Site No.474,
North by : Site No.482,
South by : Site No.480,

D.R MANJUNATH SWAMY, Advocate
Roll No. Kar/2746/02
No. 1019/A, 2nd Main, Service Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40. M : 9845132585
Bangalore Date : 08-09-2024

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION, DHANBAD.(Combined Office Building Campus)

Request for Proposal for Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC)

NIT No. : NH/Dhanbad/PBMC/04/2024-25 Date 06.09.2024

Application in the prescribed format from eligible contractors for Request for proposal for Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC) mode are invited for following projects in two bid system (Technical & Financial).

Sl. No.	Name of Works	State	Length	Approximate Cost (including GST) (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of RFP document (including GST) (in Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh)	Contract Duration * (Month)
1	PBMC work of NH-114A from Km 184.00 to Km 216.00 (Total length=32.00 Km) in the state of Jharkhand	Jharkhand	32	3411.74016	11,800/-	68.24	60 (Sixty)

Important Dates.

1	Date of Issue of Notice Inviting RFP	:	06.09.2024
2	Last Date of Receiving Quarries	:	15.10.2024
3	Pre-Bid Meeting at Venue (as mentioned in RFP)	:	17.10.2024 at 12.30 Hrs.
4	Authority Response to Queries Latest by	:	17.10.2024
5	Period of Sale of Bid Document	:	20.09.2024 (from 12.00 Hrs IST) to 04.11.2024 (Upto 17.00 Hrs IST) through Official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in]
6	Bid Due Date	:	04.11.2024 (Upto 17.00 Hrs IST) through Official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in]
7	Last date of physical submission of bid security, POA and other documents in original.	:	05.11.2024 (Upto 15.00 Hrs.IST)
8	Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid (RFP)	:	06.11.2024 (at 15.30 Hrs. IST) through Official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in]
9	Time and Date of Opening Financial Bid	:	To be notified through Official portal of : [https://eprocure.gov.in]
10	Place of Opening of Bids	:	Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
11	Bid Validity	:	120 Days from the Bid due date.
12	Officer Inviting Bids	:	Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Dhanbad.

(a) From Fee (Cost of RFP document) which is **Rs. 11,800.00 (Rupees Eleven thousand Eight Hundred only)** including GST shall be paid only through NTRP (Non-Tax Receipt Portal) portal https://bharatkosh.gov.in to Pay & Accounts Officer (PAO): 034756 in "Regional Pay & Accounts Officer [RPAO(NH), Kolkata, Code No. : 034756 and DDO Code No.: 202122 Purpose: Sale of Tender Documents]

Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Dhanbad

PR 335055 Road(24-25).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना सं० – RCD/GODDA/1059/2024-25
दिनांक –06.09.2024

1.	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमंडल, गोड्डा अन्तर्गत गोड्डा–पीरपैंती पथ के 31वें कि0मी0 में दियाजोरी चौक तक पथ भाया अमौर, खिरौन्ची, खट्टी, बलबड्डा, मड़पा, मधुरा होते हुए (कुल लम्बाई– 28.00 कि0मी0) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (Improvement of Riding Quality)/मजबूतीकरण कार्य"
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि	रू0 19,96,00,073/– (उन्नीस करोड़ छियानवें लाख तेहत्तर रूपये) मात्र
3.	बीड जमानत की राशि	रू0 19.96 लाख
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	06 (छः) माह
5.	वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	13.09.2024 के अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से
6.	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	19.09.2024 के दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय	20.09.2024 के अपराह्न 12:30 बजे
8.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले अधिकारी के कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा
9.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले अधिकारी का मो0 नं0	8987675852
10.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन सं०/दूरभाष सं०	**0651-2446007**

नोट :– 1. प्राक्कलित राशि एवं बीड जमानत की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है।
2. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
3. विशेष जानकारी के लिये http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड्डा

PR 335036 Road(24-25).D

Periodic reset

India needs to engage with ASEAN consistently on trade and security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brunei and Singapore last week was part of a deliberate focus on India's "Act East" policy by the government in its third tenure. Not since 2018, when ASEAN leaders were in India for a summit and the Republic Day parade, has New Delhi reached out to the region in such a short time span. He is expected to travel to Laos for the ASEAN-India summit, the Philippines, and Indonesia, later this year. In addition, New Delhi has laid out the red carpet for the Prime Ministers of Vietnam and Malaysia. The message to reconnect with each of the countries in South East Asia, and even forge new ties, is well considered and overdue. Mr. Modi's visit was the first bilateral visit by any Indian Prime Minister. This neglect of ties with a country that has strategic ties with the U.S., trade ties with China, and is situated in the middle of ASEAN is telling. While India's trade with the ASEAN region has doubled in the past decade, it has actually declined with Brunei, with India ramping up its oil imports from Russia since 2022. The two sides do not have a strategic partnership, although the leaders discussed defence and geo-strategic issues, and Mr. Modi took a veiled jab at China. The two sides renewed their space cooperation, which hinges on Brunei hosting an ISRO station, and it remains to be seen whether other discussions on trade, investment and energy cooperation will bear fruit. In Singapore, the spotlight during Mr. Modi's visit was on semiconductors, given that Singapore is a major player in all parts of the electronics supply chain. As India seeks more technical expertise and investment in rare earths and chip making and Singapore seeks to defray some of the growing land and labour costs of its semiconductor industry, the two could make a perfect fit, also de-risking the process from U.S.-China-Taiwan tensions, American protectionist policies and Chinese predatory practices. This could also correct the drop in Singapore's FDI levels into India.

Hopes for more intense exchanges in technology, trade and investment can be realised only if the India-ASEAN engagement is more consistent. India's exit from the ASEAN-led RCEP in 2019 was a blow, and cuts India out of a large regional FTA. While New Delhi has refused to revise the decision despite ASEAN's entreaties, it must update the 2009 AITIGA and the 2005 CECA with Singapore. India's commitment to "ASEAN centrality" on all strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific has been warmly received, but it needs to coordinate more closely on geopolitical issues including Myanmar, the South China Sea and Quad engagement. While India's historical ties with the region date more than a millennium, modern ties need a periodic reset, as governments have carried out in the past with the "Look East" policy (1992) and the Modi government's Act East policy (2014).

Wide open

With more state support, Indian Paralympians are on a high

Following the disappointment of several near-misses in the recent Olympics, India's best-ever show of 29 medals for an 18th place finish in the Paris Paralympics is reason to celebrate. From four medals and 43rd spot in Rio 2016 to 19 medals and 24th rank in Tokyo 2020, this is a significant ascent and depicts the Indian Paralympians' constant improvement in sync with the increased government support. Since the challenges are different, it may not be fair to compare the achievements of the para-athletes with those in the Olympics. India's performance in the 2024 Paralympics reflects its para-athletes' quest for excellence despite the unimaginable odds they face. Of the seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals, the majority (17 in all), came from para-athletics. The javelin throwers and high jumpers contributed the most, with four medals in different categories classified as impairments. Para-badminton (five), para-shooting (four), para-archery (two) and para-judo (one) completed the country's medal tally. Shooter Avani Lekhara and javelin thrower Sumit Antil, who set a new Paralympic record, defended their gold medals, high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu claimed his third successive medal, 17-year-old armless archer Sheetal Devi became the youngest Indian to win a medal and Harvinder Singh won the first para-archery gold.

Preethi Pal bagged India's first-ever track medal as she picked up a bronze in women's 100m T35 event followed by another in 200m and Kapil Parmar captured India's first para-judo medal. Nagaland's 40-year-old Army man Hokato Sema, who shone as a shot putter despite losing a leg in the line of duty in the prime of his youth, cornered glory to underscore the indomitable human spirit. Overall, the spectators' response to the Paralympics 2024 was heart-warming – organisers sold over two million tickets for the Games. The Stade de France witnessed a near-capacity crowd thronging the iconic venue daily to watch and support the heroic efforts. It was a huge encouragement for the 4,400-plus para-athletes competing in 549 medal events in 22 sports and might contribute to the growth and acceptability of para-sports. It complemented the French authorities' attempt to make the Paralympics more inclusive, which is apparent from the emblem, mascot, and motto – Games Wide Open – used for the Olympics. The successful conduct of the Paris Paralympics and the Indians' praiseworthy performance should draw more government and corporate support for these athletes in India to ensure improved shows on the field and a better life as part of the mainstream.

Policy paralysis, a weakened public health sector

Mathew George

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The public health needs of a population are diverse and perception and prioritisation vary across the social strata. Public health policies are those decisions made by the government based on the resources available to address people's health needs. Public health needs include those felt by people (felt needs) based on their lived experiences and those projected upon (projected needs) them by experts – the architects of public health policies. The recent Union Budget has been critiqued for its inadequate focus on the social sector, specifically the public health sector. Public health policies of the government in the last decade indicate that there has been a severe paralysis when it comes to public health policies without any real prescription that addresses the felt needs of people.

Felt needs in public health

Public health needs can be broadly categorised into three groups: First, are the diseases of poverty such as tuberculosis, malaria, undernutrition, maternal death, bouts of illnesses due to food and water-borne infections leading to typhoid, hepatitis, and diarrhoeal diseases faced by the poor and the vulnerable. These problems attain greater significance as attempts to prevent these also pose challenges of addressing livelihood and are non-negotiable from a rights perspective.

Second are the problems of the middle class and those better off on issues that are related to environmental pollution – air, water, waste management, lack of drainage facility and failure to ensure healthy foods and eateries that pose threat to everyday lives, most of which are due to poor infrastructure development and poor market regulations. The list goes on if we add road traffic accidents, climate change and the rise of chronic illnesses. These are also applicable to the first group but may not figure within the hierarchy of priorities.

Third, and the most popular needs in public health, are the curative care needs of a population. Provisioning of curative care is the most critical and controversial policy question in public health. The three levels of curative care envisaged are primary, secondary and tertiary. The poor and the vulnerable rely on primary health-care institutions of the public sector for primary-level care, as it is the most affordable and is closer to their places of residence. Secondary-level care was historically neglected and is still inadequate against population norms. Shortage of infrastructure including health professionals in these facilities aggravates the problem. Tertiary-care needs for curative care among the poor are the focus of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogaya Yojana (PMJAY) under Ayushman Bharat.

A history of Indian public health policies in the last decade shows that the National Rural Health Mission, which was started in 2005, and followed by the National Health Mission (NHM) of 2013, were a clear departure from the then existing National Health Policy of 2002, which proposed the commercialisation of health care. It was the NHM's focus on strengthening public sector health care through architectural correction that has revived an otherwise sinking health system after the reform period of the 1990s. Efforts were taken to follow the principles of primary health care while strengthening the institutions of primary health care by implementing the national health programmes through them, thus building goodwill and trust among the people about public sector health care. This was obvious from the health infrastructure available in India, which was reported as 1,53,655 sub centres, 25,308 primary health centres (PHC) and 5,396 community health centres (CHC) as per the rural health statistics, 2015. The impetus created by NHM would have been capitalised had subsequent policies strengthened the secondary- and tertiary-level health care in the public sector. Instead, the focus has shifted entirely on publicly funded health insurance schemes (PFHI) such as the PMJAY under Ayushman Bharat since 2018. PFHI schemes were implemented by the governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and others as an add-on to the overall strengthening efforts under the NHM then.

> Primary care is weak while there has been a boost to the growth of the private sector in secondary and tertiary care

Private health care, the real beneficiary

The real beneficiary of PFHI schemes in the Indian context is private sector health care. First, a health insurance cover ideally implies covering all health-care expenses, globally. It is unique that India's health insurance scheme covers only hospitalisation expenses under the scheme. This is based on the market logic that if 50 crore people (12 crore households are the beneficiaries of PMJAY) are enrolled in the scheme; only 2.5 crore people will have an actual need for hospitalisation annually as per epidemiological data.

Further, the outsourcing of secondary and tertiary-care services to the private sector at market rates under the scheme is an open acknowledgement by the government of its failure and a lack of intention to strengthen secondary- and tertiary-level public sector health care in the country. The implication is that the remaining 100 crore population who are not covered under any government schemes are forced to have highly commercialised medical care for their illnesses, incurring an expenditure at market rates. Thus, by monopolising the market for health care, private hospitals pretend to offer services to the government at market rates, at the same time ensuring that the remaining two-thirds of the population must depend on them by making sure that public sector health care is weakened.

The last nail in the coffin of the public health system is the recent transformation of sub centres, PHCs and CHCs into health and wellness centres (HWC) in February 2018. The highlight was to declare that 1,50,000 HWCs were established as new institutions in rural areas, when numbers more than that were already in existence (RHS 2015). The proposal was to have a community health officer, expected to render treatment to a rural population by completing a bridge course. This has transformed the original mandate of sub centres from rendering outreach activity to that which provides curative care. Doctoring gained its acceptance through its act of diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. Instead, the proposal to equip a community health officer to practise medicine minimally results in the new professional becoming a dignified chemist. The failure to offer curative care in its entirety by any institution will shatter the trust of people in those institutions.

The latest of this was in a 2023 directive to rename all the HWCs (sub centres, PHC and CHC) to 'Ayushman Arogya mandir'. One could not find any clear justifications for this name change. Several questions arise on how this name is of significance to a non-Hindi speaking population. How does the term mandir resonate as the title of a secular health institution?

Threat to public health system

Public health challenges are diverse in a country such as India and there is a need to address these across social groups without fail. For the vulnerable and the poor, prevention programmes and health promotion activities become a luxury when their day-to-day livelihoods are not addressed. It is basic primary- and secondary-level curative care that are their felt needs in public health. Historically, institutions of primary health care were entrusted with this responsibility and were delivering preventive and promotion activities close to their home, by making it culturally and contextually relevant.

The major curative care challenge posed across the country is the loss of trust towards health-care providers (private sector due to commercial interests) and public sector due to overcrowding of health care with inadequate infrastructure due to low provisioning.

The government has slashed the limbs of the public health system by not strengthening secondary- and tertiary-level care in the public sector and instead favouring the growth of the private sector. Finally, the institutions of primary health care – the lifeline of India's public health system – were weakened by projecting them as curative care centres, for popularity and branding, without acknowledging their purpose in health programmes and their interconnections with grassroot-level institutions of health care.

The views expressed are personal

With or without Chinese companies is the question

Anand P. Krishnan

a Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, and an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

Notwithstanding the government's coalition status after the 2024 general election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sounded confident in being able to carry forward his intention over the last decade to transform India into a global manufacturing hub. The launch of the 'Make in India' project in 2014, and later the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme to attract domestic and foreign capital, are supposed to be a part of this agenda. The Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto had three pages dedicated to manufacturing ambitions across different sectors. The Union Budget for 2024-25 provides a big fillip for the PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing through the allocation of ₹6,125 crore, an increase from around ₹4,499.04 crore in the 2023-24 Budget (₹4,489.46 crore as per revised estimates). The government's focus on building expertise within the country is also visible in the allocation of ₹1,148 crore to research and development in the electronics and IT sectors, up from ₹600 crore in the 2023-24 Budget (₹1,000 crore as per revised estimates).

'Make in India' and China's presence

Interestingly, one of the biggest beneficiaries of the 'Make in India' project in the electronics industry are Chinese smartphone companies. Their operations in India have spanned a decade, during which they have become dominant market players. According to the International Data Corporation's Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone tracker, four of the top five best-selling smartphone brands at the end of 2023 were Chinese, with a combined market share of slightly over 50%.

That Indian consumers are one of the largest users of smartphones with the android operating system (whose market share as of 2023, is about 70%) has worked to the advantage of these companies. Chinese brands contain a range of applications catering to the diverse Indian tastes. These companies have expanded their production with active support from central and State governments. Well-thought out strategies in sales, aggressive marketing, calibrated customer segmentation and brand-building, sponsorships of popular culture entities, celebrity endorsements, and smart advertisement campaigns have powered their operations in India. They have penetrated beyond metropolitan regions, becoming easy reference points for Indian consumers.

Chinese companies have also been able to withstand the troughs and crests in India-China bilateral relations, until the Galwan valley incident in 2020. The subsequent shrill rhetoric in India of boycotting Chinese products intersected with the 'vocal for local' narrative of the Indian government. In addition to the increased scrutiny of Chinese investments for not adhering to tax-related compliances, the government is also seeking to 'Indianise' their operations and management in different ways: induction of Indian equity partners in local operations; appointment of Indian executives to top roles; involving Indian contract manufacturers for production and assembly; expanding exports from India, and hiring only local distributors. New Delhi's directive underscores the long-term strategy of creating a robust network of indigenous manufacturers of sophisticated, precision devices. This approach, in fact, mirrors how China developed its own home-grown supplier companies, which have now expanded their operations into SouthEast Asia.

> India will have to maintain a balance between developing home-grown players and allowing continued Chinese investments and operations in the electronics industry

Attempts at some Indianisation

The entry of Tata Electronics as a contract manufacturer of smartphone devices is a noticeable example of growing Indianisation. It began by taking over the India operations of Wistron, and have covered much ground in their negotiations to acquire Pegatron, both Taiwanese suppliers for corporations including Apple.

Meanwhile, Chinese smartphone companies have treaded cautiously, by gradually beginning to comply with the Indian government's directives. They have brought in Indian distributors, streamlined their structure by introducing separate sales and marketing operations for each individual brand, teamed up with domestic manufacturers to claim benefits of the PLI scheme, and are now increasingly seeking equity partners. This illustrates their adaptability to survive, evolve, and outlast phases of turbulence, while retaining consumer confidence. The promise and the potential in the sheer size of the Indian market, encourages this approach and a willingness to prepare for the long haul. However, while the Indian government ploughs on with measures to dilute and limit Chinese involvement – this includes attracting Taiwanese investments – there remain serious constraints.

Manufacturing of all smartphone components entirely in India, along with a robust supplier network, requires development of ancillary industries, clusters for technological knowledge-sharing, uninterrupted power and water supply, and better working and living conditions for the workforce. India possesses none of these at scale at the moment. Chinese companies also remain reluctant to share technology without clarity on their equity participation.

Ground reality

The push by India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ease visa norms for Chinese technicians, within days of the new government taking office, underscores the difficulty for the government in conditioning and controlling both Indian and Chinese companies in the short to medium term. The Government's Economic Survey, released a day before the Budget advocates promoting Foreign Direct Investment from China rather than being fixated on the China Plus One Diversification strategy of major multinational companies. Clearly, New Delhi will need to maintain a delicate balance between developing home-grown players and allowing continued Chinese investments and operations of Chinese companies in order to achieve its manufacturing objectives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On the boil

The already volatile situation in Manipur appears to be worsening with drone and rocket attacks. It is alarming. The anguish of the people is understandable. The ruling party in the State and Centre appear to be unwilling to make course corrections in policies. It is strange why no change in the leadership is being contemplated by the Centre.

D. Sethuraman,
Brentwood, Tennessee, U.S.

AI and job loss

The ILO's report on job displacement due to AI and automation cannot be brushed aside. There needs to be a balanced integration of automation and human labour. Industry leaders need to implement this, by giving it much thought.

Samar Ali,
Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar

At the Paralympics

India's para-athletes have made the nation proud with their best-ever medal haul. Every medal won shows struggle, dedication, and the refusal to accept limitations. The message is clear. Perseverance, dedication and talent can overcome even the greatest of challenges.

Lakshminarayanan P.,
Chennai

Going forward, many more talented para-athletes need to be identified and encouraged from the school level in India with the help of specially-trained teachers even in regular schools.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

The vulnerability of live-in couples

Megha Sharma

Assistant Professor
National Law School India University
Bangalore

In 2022, investigations began into the disappearance of a 26-year-old woman, Shraddha Walkar. Her murder, allegedly committed by by her live-in partner, ignited a media trial. Sections of the media obtained her social media conversations, and financial and travel details, from the police and her friends to retrace her key life decisions. The case, framed as violence within an inter-faith live-in relationship, failed to provoke debates on violations of personal data as a breach of the individual's privacy. The trial made the crime a precautionary tale against deviating from conventional social norms.

Recent surveys show that arranged marriages are the norm in India. The choices of the youth are shaped by societal pressures and the lack of legal protection available to interfaith couples and those in live-in relationships. Shraddha's case reinforced this sensibility behind relationships.

India's democracy celebrates pluralism of social, religious, and political practices institutionally and in the everyday lives of citizens. The mechanisms of justice and law arguably secure the rights of each individual enshrined in the Constitution. This article connects the recent crimes against unconventional couples and the legal protection possible for them.

Seeking justice

The Domestic Violence Act, 2005, extends to live-in relationships. In 2006, the Supreme Court, in a decision on the complaint of a woman, Lata Singh, against her family's threats to her husband, upheld inter-caste marriages. In following judgments, the Supreme Court extended the same protection to live-in relationships, stating, "Live-in or marriage-like relationship is neither a crime nor a sin though socially unacceptable in this country". The law offers protection against domestic violence to women in such setups and property rights to children of such couples. However, the complaints mostly seek protection against women's parents.

In *Chawali v. State of U.P.* (2015), the Allahabad High Court, building on the conservatism towards marriage, warned against the emotional and psychological consequences of such alliances: "Not only prostitution but sometimes, as a result of 'live-in relationship', a woman faces deportation... or involvement in the commission of crimes. It is not that every live-in relationship may result with ill consequences... However, Courts have no parameter to find out the intent of boys and girls who are... in live-in relationship."

Legal ambiguity has been a central issue in such cases, as these relationships are not illegal, but they do not offer the rights and social acceptance possible with marriages. The 'intent' becomes narrowly defined as the monogamous nature of the couple's relationship and leaves out any other forms of companionship. In *Chawali*, the Court said, "Fundamental rights securing the individual rights of the citizens should be looked into from an Indian perspective." Judgments view live-in relationships as a western concept. They separate western individual rights and protection from the Indian traditional and customary practices that place family as the basis of socialisation.

The Court's appeal to a unified Indian perspective excludes the class and social inequalities that can impact citizens' access to law. A homogenous culture overlooks the divergence in the experiences of women across caste, economic groups, literacy levels, and settlements. These aspects independently and collectively determine the demands for protection and the possibility of accessing formal legal mechanisms.

> The restrictive nature of legal provisions for live-in couples allows social conservatism to find its way back to institutions of justice

Negotiating law

The rights of live-in couples weighed against the rights of couples in marriages are tolerated but not accepted as natural to India. The judiciary's interpretations expose the couples to vulnerability by legitimising customary practices through the trials. In 2024, for instance, the Madhya Pradesh High Court dismissed an interfaith couple's pleas seeking police protection against the woman's family and registration of their marriage, observing that the union of a Muslim man with a "fire-worshipper" woman is not a valid wedding as per Muslim law. Further, the couple could not prove their financial dependence or long-term residence, which were critical to proving their relationship akin to marriage. The rules defining the criteria for establishing live-in relations do not account for the impossibility of opening a bank account or cohabiting in India's rental market without proof of marriage or family ties.

The restrictive nature of such provisions allows social conservatism to find its way back to the secular institutions of justice in modern India. Under the garb of appeals to Indian traditions and perspectives, the judgments promote legal protection only through marriage. A 2023 High Court order held, "It reserves many rights and privileges to married persons to preserve and encourage the institution of marriage. The Supreme Court is simply accepting a social reality, and it has no intention to unravel the fabric of Indian family life".

India's religious and legal pluralism offers possibilities for rethinking interconnections between law and social practices. There are many efforts by non-state actors to support individuals expressing their autonomy. The success of these initiatives should lead to changes in attitudes towards socialisation and create supportive community networks, while promoting deliberations over the role of law as a corrective check to prevalent discrimination.

A litmus test for the BJP

The odds are stacking up against the ruling party

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
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Haryana politics is characterised by shifting alliances, coalitions of castes, and national influences. As Assembly elections are scheduled to take place in the State on October 5, there is a stir in the political landscape.

These polls will be a litmus test for the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) as the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress, are gearing up to challenge its decade-long dominance in the State. The election appears to be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress, even as talks on seat-sharing are underway between the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The BJP, which has released its first list of 67 candidates, is facing rebellion on close to a dozen of seats. Even as it tries to placate its rebels, the party's biggest challenge is the anti-incumbency factor. There is also a sense among many people in the State that the ruling party failed to evolve a political grievance redressal mechanism during its tenure. As a result, voters' concerns on several issues, such as the sexual harassment charges of the women wrestlers, farmers' demands, and traders' problems with the Goods and Services Tax, all went unheard. The party will likely have to combat the political narrative surrounding its "arrogance", in the run-up to the polls. Despite these issues, the BJP appears confident about regaining power after "effectively fighting against corruption and nepotism", and "ensuring transparency" in governance.

The Congress, which recently inducted Olympian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia into the party, has declared 41 candidates so far. Last year, the two wrestlers were at the forefront of protests against the former Wrestling Federation of India president and former BJP MP, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The two wrestlers are young and from the Jat or agrarian community, which could benefit the party.

However, the Congress is riddled with factionalism and has been functioning for more than nine years without block and district committees. Therefore, its biggest challenge is to put up a united fight against the BJP.

Meanwhile, the AAP, which has successfully fought fights elections on an anti-corruption plank, ironically appears to be on the defensive on the issue as many of its leaders are facing corruption charges.

There are others in the fray too, including the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD); the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP); and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), the BJP's former coalition partner, which is contesting the election with the Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram).

As always, every party is relying on caste equations. Earlier this year, by replacing Manohar Lal with Nayab Singh Saini, an Other Backward Classes (OBC) leader, as Chief Minister, the BJP seemed determined to maintain an electoral hold over the OBCs, who account for about 35% of the State's population. However, the caste arithmetic does not appear to be working to the BJP's advantage since the Jats, who constitute about 22% of the State's population, and the Scheduled Castes (SC), who comprise about 20% (2011 Census), may be leaning towards the Congress.

Political observers believe that the reason for Jat consolidation is the "weakening" of the INLD and the JJP – parties which draw their support largely from the agrarian class. The Jat votes have traditionally been divided among the Congress, the INLD, and the JJP. If the Jat votes of the INLD and JJP are secured by the Congress, the party would be in an advantageous position.

There is another reason why the Jats are moving towards the Congress. After forming the government in 2014, the BJP selected Manohar Lal, a non-Jat, as Chief Minister. In Jat-dominated Haryana, Mr. Manohar Lal became the first non-Jat Chief Minister in 18 years after Bhajan Lal. Since then, the community believes that it has lost political power. This bitterness may have only grown, giving them more reason to rally behind the Congress.

Securing the SC vote is also going to be an uphill task for the BJP. In 2014, the party had won nine of the 17 (SC) Assembly seats in Haryana. This dropped to five in the 2019 Assembly polls. On the other hand, the Congress's performance in these seats went up from four seats in 2014 to seven seats in 2019. In the recent Lok Sabha elections too, the Congress improved its vote share in SC-reserved seats. These figures only affirm the loss of the BJP's support among Dalits.

Samagra Shiksha fund delay punishes role-model States

The Centre's withholding of funds has more to do with acceptance of the PM Shri scheme than the actual outcomes of the Samagra Shiksha scheme

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over the past year, the Centre has withheld funds of the Samagra Shiksha scheme (SSA) to at least five Opposition-ruled States – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal, and Delhi. The SSA is an overarching programme for the school education sector. Data show that the Centre's decision has more to do with acceptance of the PM Shri scheme, which aims to develop "exemplar model schools, that offer leadership to other schools", than the outcomes of the SSA. In some cases, unwillingness to accept the National Education Policy in its entirety was also a reason.

The fees for students enrolled under the Right to Education depends on SSA funds. Salary delays for teachers have also been reported in these States. Owing to the financial burden, Kerala and Punjab relented and Delhi too may agree to the Centre's terms.

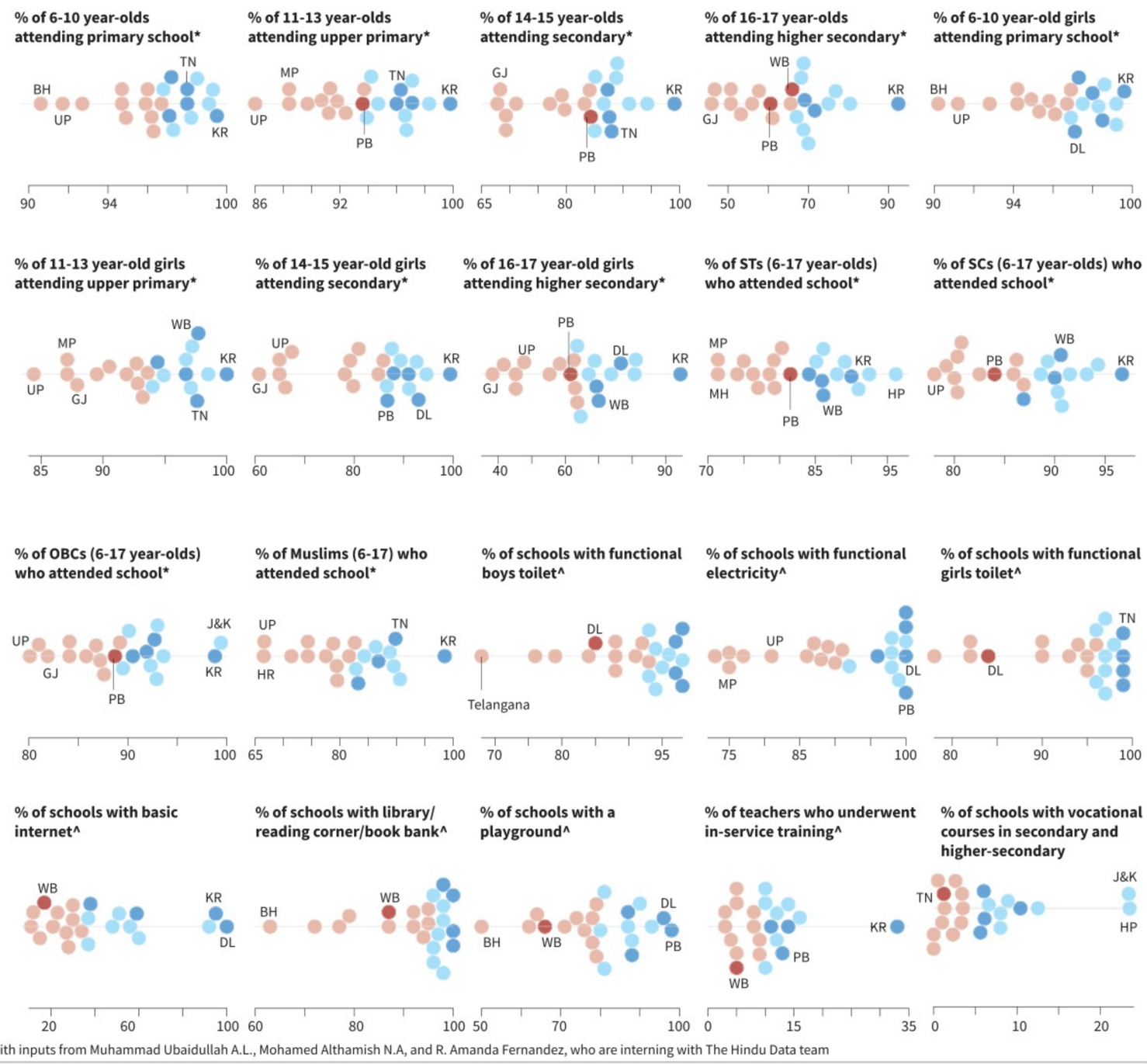
By delaying the funds, the Centre has penalised the States that are at the forefront of achieving the SSA's major objectives, such as bridging social and gender gaps, ensuring equity and inclusion in school education, promoting vocational education, ensuring school provisions, and training teachers.

The graph compares 22 major States on 20 objectives of the SSA. On all 20 objectives, Kerala is in the top half (best 11 States) of the list, even leading in many. Tamil Nadu is in the top half on 19 objectives. Delhi is in the top half on 18 objectives, and West Bengal on 15. Punjab features in the top half for 12 of the objectives.

Among the States which got the funds, Gujarat is in the top half for only eight of the 20 objectives. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are in the top half for three objectives each, and Bihar for two.

Top rankers denied funds

The data for the charts are sourced from the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (marked * in graph), and U-DISE (marked ^). In each measure, States in the top half (best 11) are marked in ●, bottom half are marked in ●. If Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Delhi or West Bengal are in the top half, they are highlighted as ●, if they are in the bottom half they are highlighted as ●. In the graph, BH: Bihar, KR: Kerala, PB: Punjab, GJ: Gujarat, HP: Himachal Pradesh


% of 6-10 year-olds attending primary school*
% of 11-13 year-olds attending upper primary*
% of 14-15 year-olds attending secondary*
% of 16-17 year-olds attending higher secondary*
% of 6-10 year-old girls attending primary school*
% of 11-13 year-old girls attending upper primary*
% of 14-15 year-old girls attending secondary*
% of 16-17 year-old girls attending higher secondary*
% of STs (6-17 year-olds) who attended school*
% of SCs (6-17 year-olds) who attended school*
% of OBCs (6-17 year-olds) who attended school*
% of Muslims (6-17) who attended school*
% of schools with functional boys toilet^
% of schools with functional electricity^
% of schools with functional girls toilet^
% of schools with basic internet^
% of schools with library/ reading corner/book bank^
% of schools with a playground^
% of teachers who underwent in-service training^
% of schools with vocational courses in secondary and higher-secondary
Telangana

With inputs from Muhammad Ubaidullah A.L., Mohamed Althamish N.A, and R. Amanda Fernandez, who are interning with The Hindu Data team

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 9, 1974

Bhutto on normalisation of ties with India

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Bhutto, has told the visiting Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike that "despite the set-backs caused by the Indian nuclear explosion, the process of normalisation (of Indo-Pakistan relations) was being resumed."

According to Radio Pakistan, the above view of Mr. Bhutto was contained in a joint communique issued to-day at the end of Mrs. Bandaranaike's five-day official visit to Pakistan.

The radio said that Mr. Bhutto apprised Mrs. Bandaranaike of the 'evolution of Pakistan's relations with India' and told her that in accordance with the Simla Agreement the two countries (India and Pakistan) would "in due course discuss modalities of establishing durable peace between them, including a final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute."

Mrs. Bhutto also informed Mrs. Bandaranaike of the "results" of his recent visit to Bangladesh and of the "positive" contribution that has been made towards "mutual understanding and reconciliation", the radio said.

The communique said the two Prime Ministers were gratified over the progress made regarding Sri Lanka's proposal for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

Mr. Bhutto also apprised Mrs. Bandaranaike of the 'initiative' Pakistan had decided to take at the coming United Nations General Assembly session for the declaration of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

Pakistan and India had decided to establish a joint economic committee to promote co-operation between the two nations, the communique said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 9, 1924

Cambodia cotton.

The Government have decided, in view of the exceptional circumstances of the present season, when, owing to the failure of the early rains, the crops other than cotton had been poor and the ryots had had to depend on the cotton crop to make good, at any rate in part, the losses consequent on the failure of other crops, to extend the time for uprooting Cambodia cotton from 1st August until September 1st this year.

From Page One

Biren calls for targeted move on militant camps

Asked if the CM's memorandum to the Governor included a demand to change the structure of the unified command, the source said: "It is the prerogative of the Union government; the State government does not have much say."

Another source said, "Most MLAs are of the opinion that their hands are tied and they are not able to respond in a way they want due to the chain of command of security arrangement. The Governor was told that there needs to be clarity on the control of the security forces and coordination of security arrangements."

Apart from the Army and Manipur Police, there are 198 companies – around 20,000 personnel – of Central armed police forces deployed in the State. Ethnic violence between the State's tribal Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people erupted on May 3, 2023. So far, 235 people have been killed, and more than 60,000 people have been displaced in the violence.

The police claimed that drone bombs and long-range rockets fired by Kuki-Zo extremists killed three people and injured more than 15 in three attacks on villages in the Imphal West and Bishnupur districts between September 1 and 6.

Govt. dissolves panel amid delayed Census

In her letter to the members, Ms. Rathore said that the Ministry had recently constituted the Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys (NSS) as per a recommendation by the National Statistical Commission (NSC) to look into the survey-related issues of NSSO. "The roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee are overlapping with that of Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) as outlined in the respective Terms of Reference (ToRs). In this context, I would like to convey that the Ministry has decided to dissolve the SCoS, constituted vide its order dated 13 July 2023," she said in the letter.

The new panel is headed by NSC Chairman Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, and at least four members of the SCoS have already been accommodated in it.

Dr. Sen said the mandate of the SCoS was to help the Ministry on methodologies of collecting and tabulating data and that the Centre itself had now gone against that mandate. "I have no idea of what happened. I got an email that the committee had been disbanded," he said.

Over the past year, the panel had held more than half-a-dozen meetings and discussed several issues in its domain with utmost seriousness.

'Ukraine keen on India joining peace process'

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is on a visit to Saudi Arabia, Germany and Switzerland from September 8 to 13 when he will engage Ministers of West Asian nations and heads of UN organisations, apart from holding bilateral meetings.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will visit Russia from September 10 to 12 for the BRICS NSA meetings where he will meet counterparts from China, Brazil, South Africa, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Ethiopia.

The flurry of diplomatic visits comes after Mr. Zelenskyy pitched India as a possible mediator along with other "Global South" countries and Mr. Putin said he valued any efforts by India, China and Brazil on the conflict.

Mr. Polishchuk said that while one part of the Modi-Zelenskyy talks had focused on peace efforts, they had also discussed bilateral issues at length.

"We need to pay more attention to the implementation of the various plans for cooperation that the leaders agreed to," Mr. Polishchuk said.

MP Sircar resigns over doctor's rape-murder

Mr. Sircar, a retired IAS officer, said that in all these years, he has not "seen such angst and total no-confidence against the government, even when it says something correct or factual", and added that "the present spontaneous outpouring of public anger is against this unchecked overbearing attitude of the favoured few and the corrupt".

The former Prasar Bharati CEO, who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha three years ago, said that the "mainstream of the agitation is non-political and a spontaneous one and it is not correct to take a confrontational stand".

In his two-page communication to Ms. Banerjee, he said that he had "become increasingly disillusioned as the State government seemed quite unconcerned about corruption and the increasing strong-arm tactics of a section of leaders".

Mr. Sircar added that he shall go to Delhi soon and offer his resignation to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and will also disassociate himself totally from politics.

Reacting to the resignation of Mr. Sircar, West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said that this is a clear indication that people who care for Bengal are not willing to support the failed leadership of Mamata Banerjee.

Bengal protesters demand justice for R.G. Kar doctor

People from all walks of life join 'Reclaim the Night' march in Kolkata to mark one month of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a hospital in the city; Supreme Court to hear case today

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Public anger: People take part in a protest march in Kolkata on Sunday over the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital last month. PTI

Several parts of West Bengal witnessed unprecedented protests on Sunday to mark one month of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

People from all walks of life, including doctors, alumni of educational institutions, potters from Kumartuli, artists, and even rickshaw pullers joined the protests in Kolkata on the eve of the Supreme Court hearing in the case.

As dusk descended on Sunday, thousands of people, including women, joined the 'Reclaim the Night' march. A similar march was held on August 14.

The body of the woman doctor was recovered from the seminar hall of the State-run hospital in the early hours of August 9.

The parents of the doctor also participated in a protest in the Esplanade area. "Whenever I think about the torment, the pain experienced by my daughter on that night, I shudder. She had dreams to serve society, Now, all these protesters are my children," the mother said.

An aunt of the victim said while earlier the slogan was "We want justice", it was now "We demand justice".

The resident doctors of the R.G.Kar MCH, which has emerged as the epicentre of the movement, formed a human chain and sang the National Anthem, holding the Tricolour. Amid the cry for justice, the doctors of Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College protested by releasing black balloons.

Sculptures and potters also participated in a protest rally in the Kumartuli area of the city. They have sculpted and painted idols of Goddess Durga with tears flowing from her eyes. Rickshaw pullers participated in a rally from Hedua in north Kolkata to College Street.

Only one arrested

Former students of over 50 schools took part in a rally in the Gariahat area. The protesters said that along with justice for the victim, they wanted safer workplaces for women.

So far, only one person has been arrested in connection with the crime. Sanjay Roy, a civic police volunteer, was arrested by the Kolkata Police before the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation on August 13.

The former principal of the hospital, Sandip Kumar Ghosh, and three others have been arrested by the CBI for alleged financial irregularities at the health facility.

The parents of the victim have alleged that attempts had been made to tamper evidence and portray the death as a suicide. They also claimed that they were offered money.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Al Nahyan arrives in New Delhi

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan being received by Piyush Goyal in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, arrived in New Delhi to a warm welcome on Sunday as he kick-started a two-day maiden visit to India to boost bilateral ties on a range of areas, including energy and connectivity, amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal received the Crown Prince at the airport, following which he was accorded a ceremonial welcome, in reflection of the importance India has attached to the visit.

"A new milestone in a historic relationship. His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in Delhi on his first official visit to India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

The Crown Prince is accompanied by several Ministers from the UAE government and a business delegation.

After concluding the Delhi leg of his visit, Mr. Al Nahyan will travel to Mumbai to participate in a business forum. Top business leaders from both the countries will participate in the forum on Tuesday.

The visit of Mr. Al Nahyan will further reinforce the strong ties between India and the UAE and open avenues for partnership in new and emerging areas, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince will hold talks on Monday.

Parliamentary committees likely to be set up by Sept. 20

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Department-related Standing Committees of Parliament are likely to be finalised by September 20 as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju reached out to various parties on Sunday, said an informed source.

The Opposition is unlikely to get an opportunity to head the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs as its numbers in the Rajya Sabha have dropped.

The Standing Committee on Home is headed by a Rajya Sabha member; former Union Minister P. Chidambaram and Abhishek Singhvi of the Congress have held the position previously.

However, the Congress is likely to get the chairmanship of three department-related Standing Committees that are headed by Lok Sabha members.

Other Opposition parties such as the Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) will get to head one each. NDA constituents Janata Dal (United) and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) too are likely to be given the chairmanship of one committee each from the BJP's quota, the source said.

Cong. vies for position

At an informal discussion on Sunday, Congress leaders are said to have pointed out to Mr. Rijiju that the party headed the panels on Finance and External Affairs even when it had 44 MPs after the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Sources said the Congress would press for some of the important Ministries such as Finance, Defence, and External Affairs in the latest reconstitution of committees.

18 months on, SEBI probe into violations by Adani Group languishing, says Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) investigation into "the Adani Group's brazen attempt" to bypass regulations is still languishing and the capital markets regulator has a lot to explain.

Jairam Ramesh

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh's remarks attacking SEBI came after a media report which claimed that two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who were mentioned in the January 2023 report on the Adani Group by short-seller Hindenburg Research, have petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), seeking urgent relief from complying with SEBI's new foreign investor norms.

"Two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), a part of the revelations in the still-unfolding Modani mega scam, have now petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal, seeking urgent relief from complying with SEBI's new foreign investor norms before the upcoming September 9 deadline," Mr. Ramesh said.

He said both the FPIs are alleged to be violating rules that require investors to not be over-invested in a single stock.

These rules are meant to ensure that black money routed through tax havens does not flood back into Indian capital markets, Mr. Ramesh said, adding they must be upheld at all costs.

"The basic fact is that a SEBI investigation into these violations that was supposed to be completed in two months and shared with the Supreme Court is still languishing 18 months later," the Congress leader said in his post on X.

"SEBI has a lot to explain, quite apart from the multiple conflicts of interest of its Chairperson that are now unravelling," he added.

Mr. Ramesh's remarks come weeks after Hindenburg Research launched a fresh broadside against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, alleging that she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal.

Rahul in U.S. to 'strengthen' bond between two nations

Press Trust of India
HOUSTON

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday arrived in the U.S. on a three-day visit during which he will hold "meaningful discussions and insightful conversations" to further strengthen the bond between India and America.

The Congress MP was welcomed at the airport by Sam Pitroda, chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, and members of the Indian diaspora.

Mr. Gandhi expressed his anticipation of engaging in meaningful discussions to strengthen the bond between the two nations.

Mr. Pitroda said last week that the Opposition leader is not coming to the U.S. in his official capacity but will have a chance to interact with a variety of people on Capitol Hill at an "individual level".

India, U.S. agree to swap turns, Biden to host Quad Summit in home State

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi with Joe Biden, Anthony Albanese and Fumio Kishida during the Quad Summit, in Japan in 2023. PTI

India and the United States have "swapped" hosting the Quad Summit to allow U.S. President Joseph Biden to hold the summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in his home State of Delaware, said sources.

India will host the Quad Summit in 2025, they said, which indicated that the new U.S. President, Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, will visit India next year.

The summit will be held on September 21.

On September 22, Mr. Modi will address a diaspora meet titled "Modi & U.S. Progress Together" in New York's Long Island. He will attend the "Summit of the Future" at the UN on September 22-23.

Meanwhile, possibly given that Mr. Modi will travel to the U.S. earlier than scheduled, he will not stay on to deliver the address to the UN General Assembly, as announced before, on September 26. According to a revised provisional list of speakers issued by the UN, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will address the General Debate on September 28.

According to official sources, the summit swap was decided after a meeting of the Quad 'sous sherpas', the officials negotiating the logistics of the summit, earlier this month and finalised after conversations between Mr. Modi and the U.S. and Australian leaders. While originally, India had planned to host the summit in New York on the sidelines of the UN meetings, the U.S. has now decided to organise the event.

"Once it became clear that this year's Quad Summit would take place in the U.S. around the UN General Assembly, Quad partners consulted and agreed that the U.S. and India would swap host years," a source aware of the negotiations told *The Hindu*.

Boy dies after quack performs surgery watching YouTube

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A 15-year-old boy died after an alleged botched surgery performed by a quack in Bihar's Saran district on Friday night. The quack, identified as Ajit Kumar Puri, is absconding. He allegedly performed the operation to remove gall-bladder stones by referring to videos on YouTube.

The boy, Krishna Kumar, complained of stomach ache after which he was taken to the Ganpati Seva Sadan run by Mr. Puri in Garkha Motirajpur. Mr. Puri told the family that a surgery had to be performed immediately, the police said.

When the patient's condition started deteriorating during the surgery, Mr. Puri rushed him to Patna in his ambulance, but the boy died on the way.

The family lodged a complaint on Saturday. Deputy Superintendent of Police Isha Gupta said, "We have lodged a case against him and searches are under way to arrest the accused."

The boy's father, Chandan Sah, said Mr. Puri called himself the "doctor of Ganpati Seva Sadan". "My son had stomach pain and so we took him there. During the surgery, I could see the quack checking YouTube on his mobile for instructions," Mr. Sah said.

Congress announces nine more candidates for Haryana polls

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Congress released another list of nine candidates for the coming Haryana Assembly election on Sunday. It has fielded former bureaucrat Brijendra Singh from the high-profile Uchana Kalan constituency against Jannayak Janta Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala.

The Congress had earlier announced 32 candidates on Friday.

The party fielded Anirudh Chaudhary, the grandson of former Chief Minister Bansi Lal, from the Tosham constituency, making it a contest between cousins with the BJP having already named former MP Shruti Choudhry as its candidate.

Former Minister Ashok Arora and former Speaker Kuldeep Sharma were fielded again from their traditional seats of Thanesar and Ganaur, respectively. Balram, the son of former Congress legislator Anand Dangi, has been fielded from Meham in Rohtak.

Turncoat Manju Choudhary, the wife of former JJP leader Mula Ram, has been named as party's candidate from Nangal Chaudhary.

Mohit Grover, who finished runner-up in Gurugram contesting as an Independent in 2019, is now the Congress candidate from the seat.

AICC member and Indian Youth Congress national secretary Vardhan Yadav has been fielded from Badshahpur. Former MLA Paramvir Singh has been pitted against the BJP's Devendra Babli, who had quit the JJP to join the saffron party a week ago, in Tohana.

Cong.-AAP tie-up for Haryana poll may be announced today

Meetings over the weekend seem to have ended stalemate; AAP expects five or six seats; however, speaking out against the alliance, some party leaders say it will hurt organisation in the long run

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After talks between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress for an alliance in the Haryana Assembly election had hit a stalemate over the number of seats, leaders of the two parties seemed to have ironed out the differences in a series of meetings over the weekend. Sources from both parties said an announcement on the alliance was likely on Monday.

The AAP had said it would announce a separate list of candidates on Sunday, but did not do so. It is likely to get five or six of the 90 seats in the State, said a party source. Pehowa, Gulha, Jind, Kalayat and Gurugram are the seats on offer. Another seat in Sirsa along the Haryana-Punjab boundary could come its way.

Three of these seats fall in the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency from where the party's State president, Sushil Gupta, had contested earlier. The party was keen on Jind and Kalayat with Mr. Gupta and the party's senior vice-president, Anurag Dhanda, likely to contest the respective seats.

Congress leaders K.C. Venugopal, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Sonia Gandhi at a meeting to discuss the Haryana Assembly poll. ANI

However, a senior Congress leader too was seeking ticket for his son from Kalayat.

"We were very clear that there can be no agreement without the Congress offering Kalayat and Jind seats to us," said the source.

The AAP also demanded Sohna and Ballabgarh but the Congress refused.

Dissent surfaces

Meanwhile, AAP Delhi MLA Somnath Bharti spoke against the alliance on Sunday, saying the Congress had not campaigned for the AAP in the Lok Sabha election in Delhi.

"Before the AAP-Congress alliance is inked in Haryana, Aam Aadmi Party must evaluate the effectiveness of similar alliance formed in Delhi during Lok Sabha election. While my national Convenor Arvind Kejriwal*ji* did roadshows for all the three Congress Candidates, senior leaders and Cabinet Ministers of AAP campaigned for all three Congress candidates but AAP candidates especially myself were not supported at all especially by Congress Delhi and local leaders," Mr. Bharti said in a post on X. He said that a majority of AAP supporters were not in favour of such a "misfit and selfish" alliance.

More party leaders expressed a similar opinion. "Forming an alliance with Congress for the Assembly election will hurt us in the long run. We came to power attacking the Congress and how can we form an alliance with the Congress in the Assembly level too?" a leader said.

The leader cautioned that if the AAP were to ally with the Congress in Haryana, then the latter would ask for seats in the Delhi Assembly election due early next year.

Won't allow restoration of Article 370, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Union Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the BJP would not allow the restoration of Article 370, and pledged to work towards "re-integrating residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir into India".

At an election rally in the Ramban area of Jammu, Mr. Singh dared the regional parties to restore Article 370. "Our government decisively revoked Article 370. Many warned that it will set Jammu & Kashmir on fire. We went ahead and removed it. No power on earth can bring back Article 370 till the BJP is there," he said.

Referring to a resolution presented by Pakistan's Additional Solicitor-General in a court there, Mr. Singh said, "PoK residents were described as foreigners in it. The Government of India believes that people of PoK are Indian citizens. Time is not far when people of PoK would themselves come forward and express their desire to be part of India," he said.

BJP warns Brij on remarks against Phogat, Punia

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has warned its former MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to refrain from passing comments on Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, wrestlers who have joined the Congress, after blowback from sections in Haryana. The State will go to the polls in October.

Top sources in the BJP confirmed to *The Hindu* that Mr. Singh's comments on the wrestlers were "not taken well" by certain sections in Haryana and that it was an "unnecessary side show" from the BJP's campaign. BJP president J.P. Nadda is said to have spoken to Mr. Singh on maintaining a "judicious silence" on the wrestlers who had levelled charges of harassment against him during his tenure as the chief of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Mr. Singh had accused Ms. Phogat and Mr. Punia of leading protests against him on alleged charges of harassment in 2023, at the behest of Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Deepender Hooda, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi. "This is a movement of the Congress. And today this thing has been proved. In this entire movement, the conspiracy that happened against us, the Congress was involved in it and Bhupinder Hooda was leading it," he had said the day the two wrestlers joined the Congress.

Wrestler's comments

After joining the Congress, Ms. Phogat had said that while the ruling BJP was supporting Mr. Singh, her party supported the wrestlers when they "were being dragged on the roads" in Delhi.

Mr. Punia also echoed Ms. Phogat sentiments.

Ms. Phogat's narrow miss of a medal at the Paris Olympics led to a storm of sentiment in her favour.

BJP sources said that in such a situation, Mr. Singh's comments were not helping the party's case in Haryana.

"Ms. Phogat captured the imagination of people by her fights in the Olympics in Paris and in terms of optics and tone, Mr. Singh's comments are inadvisable," said a senior BJP office bearer.

INBRIEF

BJP releases sixth list with 10 candidates for J&K election

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday released a list of 10 candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, fielding R.S. Pathania from Udhampur East and Naseer Ahmad Lone from Bandipora. On the BJP's sixth list, Faqir Mohammad Khan has been nominated for the Gurez Scheduled Tribe (ST) reserved seat, Abdul Rasheed Khan for Sonawari and Ghulam Mohammad Mir for Handwara. Bharat Bhushan will contest from Kathua, Rajeev Bhagat from Bishnah and Surinder Bhagat from Marh. These three seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC). The BJP has named Vikram Randhawa as its candidate from Bahu. PTI

Ahead of election, Aditya Devi Lal quits BJP to join INLD

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Aditya Devi Lal, grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal, on Sunday quit the party to join the Indian National Lok Dal. He resigned as Chairman of the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board on September 5, in protest against the BJP's first list of candidates. He is the second member of the Devi Lal family to quit the BJP since the first list came out on September 4. Earlier, Jails Minister Ranjit Chautala, son of Chauhary Devi Lal, had resigned from the BJP over denial of party ticket for the Rania seat. Welcoming Mr. Aditya to the party's fold, INLD secretary-general Abhay Singh Chautala declared him the party nominee from Dabwali.

No differences with BJP but feel like joining Cong.: singer

Popular bhajan singer Kanhiya Mittal, who shot to fame with his song *Jo Ram Ko Laye Hai Hum Unko Layenge*, on Sunday said he "feels like joining Congress" but clarified that he had "no differences with the Bharatiya Janata Party". Mr. Mittal was apparently eyeing the Panchkula seat in the Haryana Assembly election. The BJP, in its first list on September 4, fielded Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta for the same seat. In a video running over five minutes, Mr. Mittal denied that his decision had anything to do with his political aspirations.

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Loka Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar

Corrigendum Notice

File No. PTI-IPR-IMU-0003-2024 11348 / I&PR, BBSR, dated: 06/09/2024

A few modifications are incorporated in the RFP No-10163 Dt.-16/08/2024 published by I&PR Department on Dt.-17/08/2024 in The Samaj, The Sambad, The Dharitri, The Times of India, The Hindustan Times and The Hindu.

a) The last date for receipt of sealed proposals is dt. **17.09.2024 by 05.00 P.M.** instead of the previously notified date i.e. 06.09.2024.

b) The revised schedule for opening of the proposal is dt. **19.09.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**

The intending bidders may visit **https://inpr.odisha.gov.in** for the details.

Director, I&PR
OIPR-15001/11/0143/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The Government of Andhra Pradesh invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor to

1. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
2. Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati
3. Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur
4. Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapuramu
5. Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry
6. Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa
7. Krishna University, Machilipatnam
8. Rayalaseema University, Kurnool
9. Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore
10. JNTU Kakinada
11. JNTU Anantapur
12. JNTU Gurajada Vizianagaram
13. Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati
14. Dravidian University, Kuppam
15. Dr. Abdul Haq Urdu University, Kurnool
16. Dr.YSR Architecture & Fine Arts University, Kadapa
17. Andhra Kesari University, Ongole

For other details, please visit **https://apsche.ap.gov.in.** Online Application filled in the prescribed proforma with required documents shall be submitted by 28.09.2024. Apply here **https://apsche.ap.gov.in/vc_appl.php**

Date: 09-09-2024,
Place: Velagapudi

Sd/- SAURABH GAUR, IAS
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Selection of Contractor for Execution of Electrical HVAC and IT Works for the Renovation of Old Janasevakendra and Lobby Area at Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation	2024_SCTLT_690102_1	19-September-2024 04:00PM

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by email. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/61 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0635/0924[3rd Call] [RFX No.7000033210] (Two Bid System) SITC of capacitor banks of voltage ratings of 132kV & 220kV – 405MVAR in Phase –VI [6.5] at various EHV substations under Pune Zone in MSETCL.	2722.43 Lakhs / 25000.00	20.09.2024 20.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:05Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
No.022- 69852712/ Cell No.8329909813
Email: eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/60 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0635/0924 [1st Call] [RFX No.5000001277] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 420kV, 245kV & 145kV Class CBs (Circuit Breakers) under LE & R&M schemes for all the EHV PCC O&M zones of MSETCL.	2022.80 Lakhs / 25000.00	20.09.2024 20.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:05 Hrs.

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
No.022-69852712/ Cell No.8329909813
Email: eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
Southern Regional office
Department of Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India
C.I.T Campus, IV Cross Road, Chennai-600113

Advertisement No. 01 (YP)/2024/SRO

Requirement of Young Professional

1. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Southern Regional Office, Chennai a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India is the National Standards Body of India and is responsible for activities in the field of Standardization, Product and System Certification, Hallmarking, Laboratory Testing etc., in the country
2. BIS offers excellent opportunities to Indian nationals with proven academic credentials, professional achievements, good working knowledge of technology-based skills on the computer, strong communication and interpersonal skills and leadership qualities for engaging with BIS as Young Professionals (YPs). The details of the advertisement are as follows: -

Sl. No.	Activity	Educational Qualifications	Minimum percentage of marks/ CGPA	No. of Posts	Work Experience*	Upper age Limit	Remuneration
1	Management System Certification Department (MSCD)	**Essential:** Regular Graduation in any discipline of Science/ Engineering/ BE/B-Tech from a recognized University Regular MBA or equivalent in Marketing/Sales, Retail Management, Logistics and Supply Management and Operations Management from a recognized University.	60%	02	Minimum of two (2) years of experience in Marketing or equivalent fields (Preferably conversant with Management System Certification)	Below 35 years of age as on 07.10.2024	Rs. 70,000/- (fixed for two years)

** Documentary proof is required.*

3. For detailed Advertisement and applying for the post, please visit BIS website **www.bis.gov.in**

Sd/-
MSCO(SRO)
sqcosro @bis.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Department of Fisheries Invites Bids on e-Procurement Platform (www.tender.telangana.gov.in) for Supply of Fish Seed in Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Siddipet, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Sangareddy, Rangareddy, Medak, Vikarabad and Narayanapet Districts for the year 2024-25

Advt. No. CF-C/2/1/2024-DDIND Date:09-09-2024

Short Tender Notification time schedule of various Tender related events

Bid calling date: 09.09.2024; **Downloading of Bid document:** 09.09.2024 (from 11.00 AM) to 19.09.2024 (up to 12.00 Noon); **Pre-bid conference date/time:** Queries regarding the bid will be accepted through online to the mail id: tstenders.fishseed@gmail.com from 10.00 A.M. on 11.09.2024; **Last date/time for clarification:** 11.09.2024, 5.00 PM; **Bid Submission Starting date:** 12.09.2024, 11.00 AM onwards; **Bid closing date/time:** 19.09.2024, 3.00 PM; **Bid opening date/time:** 19.09.2024, 3.30 PM; **Bid Document Fee:** Rs.25,000/- **Contact person name and phone number:** T. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Inland) Ph.9849403752. If you are interested in participation, please visit web site at **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** and **www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in** and District wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from the above website.

DIPR R.O.No.3834-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 06.09.2024 Sd/- Dr. Priyanka Ala, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
MASTER CONTROL FACILITY
Construction & Maintenance Group,
PB # 66, Hassan – 573201, India, Telephone: 08172 – 273520, Fax: 08172 – 273953

NIT NO. MCF/CMG/H/eTN-05/2024-25/2-1019 Dated:09.09.2024

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works:

Name of Work	**Construction of 24 Nos B-Type & 2 Nos C-Type Quarters at CISF Campus, MCF-Hassan (Civil, PH & Electrical Works)**
Estimated cost	**Rs. 86077224.00**
EMD	**Rs. 1721544.00**
Period of completion	**18 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 09.09.2024 10:00 Hrs. to 23.09.2024 17:30 Hrs**
Period for bid clarifications	**From 09.09.2024 10:01 Hrs. to 24.09.2024 17:30 Hrs.**
Last date & time of reply to bid clarifications	**26.09.2024 17:30 Hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tender	**01.10.2024 17:30 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**On 08.10.2024 from 11:30 Hrs. onwards**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in.** The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** All corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders may regularly visit the above websites for any updates.

Sd/- Head, CMD-CMG

INBRIEF

IAS probationer Puja Khedkar discharged from service

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has discharged Puja Khedkar, former probationary IAS offficer, from service, more than a month after her candidature was cancelled by the Union Public Service Commission and the Delhi Police registered a criminal case against her. A senior DoPT official said, "On September 6, the Central government discharged Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar, IAS probationer, Maharashtra cadre, 2023 batch from the IAS under Rule 12 of IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954 with immediate effect."

Actors Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh welcome baby

Bollywood star couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh on Sunday became parents to their first child, a baby girl. The duo, who have co-starred in films such as *Ram-Leela*, *Bajirao Mastani*, and *83*, welcomed the baby a day after Ms. Padukone was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai. They announced the news in a joint Instagram post. "Welcome Baby Girl! 8.9.2024," the post read. Several colleagues in the film industry, including Alia Bhatt, Arjun Kapoor, and Ananya Panday, congratulated Deepika and Ranveer on social media.

Centre to rank working women's hostels on safety

Those run by private players and governments across the country will be assessed on parameters such as security, cleanliness, and facilities and the list will be published on a website, says official

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Centre is all set to launch a ranking system for working women's hostels across the country based on certain parameters, mostly relating to their security.

The move assumes significance amid cases of violence against women, including the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata which has led to widespread calls for safe working conditions for women.

The ranking, to be made available on a website, will be a one-stop list of all working women's hostels in the country, a senior official with the Women and Child Development Ministry told *The Hindu*. The move is aimed at ensuring better participation of women in the workforce, especially in urban areas, the official added.

The portal will list and rank all existing hostels run by private players, institutions, and the Union and State governments in each city.

The ranking, to be posted online, will be a one-stop list of all working women's hostels in the country S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The Ministry has held meetings with the Quality Council of India to develop parameters based on which the ranking would be done. The QCI has already sent a proposal, which has been discussed with the State governments.

Once finalised, the parameters will be sent to the State governments, which are then expected to circulate them among the hostels in their jurisdiction.

The guidelines will be based on security, cleanliness, and other desired facilities at such establishments. The entire exercise will be voluntary. The initial plan is to co-opt 200 such hostels each year, with the target being 1,000 at the end of five years, the official said.

More hostels

The portal will eventually give similar ranking of creches in each city. Apart from co-opting the existing hostels, the government is also working on establishing women's hostels, called 'Nirbhaya' hostels.

Nearly 25 such hostels have already been established at Delhi University, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab. The Union and State governments will have a 60:40 fund-sharing ratio.

Apart from providing residential facilities, these hostels will offer transit stay for women who want to appear for interviews or exams.

The Centre has an existing scheme to provide hostel facilities for working women, called 'Sakhi Nivas' launched under Mission Shakti.

To implement this scheme, financial assistance for working women's hostels is directly released to the State governments.

There are 494 functional working women hostels in the country, with day care facility for the children, according to data shared by the government in Parliament.

All States must adopt National Education Policy, says Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mother tongue is the language in which we dream, the Vice-President said.

Asserting that the National Education Policy (NEP) was a game-changer for the nation, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday appealed to the States which are yet to adopt it to rethink their stance.

"This National Education Policy empowers our youth to fully exploit their talent and energy, giving due importance to all languages," he said in his address at the International Literacy Day celebrations here.

Mr. Dhankar also highlighted the special significance of the mother tongue and the unparalleled linguistic diversity of India. It was the language in which we dream, he added.

"As Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, I afford members the opportunity to speak in 22 languages. When I hear them speak in their language, I listen to the translation, but their body language itself tells me what they are saying."

The Vice-President called upon everyone to resolve to make at least one person literate. "When we make someone literate, we liberate him or her, we help that person discover himself or herself, we make him or her feel dignity, we cut down dependence, we generate independence and interdependence. It enables a person to help himself or herself. It is a supreme facet of hand-holding."

"Let each one make one literate, this will be a spinal contribution for Viksit Bharat," he said, and expressed confidence that if literacy was pursued passionately, India could reclaim its ancient status as a centre of learning.

Train's rake splits while in motion in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Passengers escaped a major accident when the moving Magadh Express train split into two parts on Sunday after its coupling broke this morning under the Danapur Division of East Central Railway. A tragedy was averted owing to the alertness of the loco pilot.

The train was coming from New Delhi to Islampur. It had just moved ahead from the Twiniganj station when the train split into two parts and the AC coaches and a sleeper coach got separated.

According to an official, the guard informed the loco pilot and the train was stopped immediately.

No casualty

"As soon as the information about the incident was received, a team of Railway Protection Force was sent to the spot. There is no report of any casualty," RPF Inspector in-charge Deepak Kumar told media.

There should be no lynching, says senior RSS functionary

Press Trust of India
PATNA

Senior RSS functionary Indresh Kumar on Sunday asserted there should be "no man lynching and no cow lynching", in order to ensure that people from different faiths lived together in peace.

Talking to reporters here, the national executive member also said the RSS stood by the views expressed by its chief, Mohan Bhagwat, in favour of a caste census.

"What honourable Mohan ji has said is a view held by cent per cent volunteers of RSS. Caste is a reality which we cannot wish away. But we must take care to keep at bay the venom of casteism," he said.

"Likewise, we are also of the view that there are, and there will be, many religions. But we must be on guard against religious fanaticism and the violence that it leads to. People should follow their own path while having respect for all."

Asked about frequent incidents of lynching by cow vigilantes, which Opposition parties have blamed on the ascendance of BJP, an offshoot of the RSS, he said, "In many parts of the country and the world, people eat meat. But we must recognise that people are sensitive about cows. So, we should strive to create an environment in which there is no cow lynching and no man lynching. We should celebrate unity in diversity."

The RSS functionary, who is also a patron of "Pancham Dham", said the "international cultural organisation's Bihar chapter" launched a programme on Ganesh Chaturthi which will conclude on Maha Shiv Ratri next year. He said "the State-wide programme will cover 108 shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva."

India's military diplomacy in top gear with back-to-back exercises

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the past few months, India's military diplomacy is at a hectic pace with back-to-back military exercises from countries far and wide for all three Services.

India-U.S. bilateral Army exercise Yudh Abhyas is set to commence at the Mahajan field firing ranges in Rajasthan on Monday. Not far away, Phase-II of the Indian Air Force's largest multilateral exercise Tarang Shakti is under way at Jodhpur with eight countries, including India, participating with aircraft and 17 countries as observers.

The iconic A-10 Thunderbird close air support aircraft are flying over Indian air space for the first time as the U.S. has deployed them for the exercise along with F-16 jets. The countries deploying aircraft include Australia, Greece, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the UAE and the U.S. Bangladesh, which was scheduled to deploy a C-130 transport aircraft, has dropped out against the backdrop of recent domestic developments.

U.S. and Indian Army soldiers during the India-U.S. joint exercise 'Yudh Abhyas', at Auli in Uttarakhand in November 2022. PTI

"Tarang Shakti: A force for unity! The 25th Fighter Squadron's A-10 Thunderbolt II and a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord showcased their capabilities in India," the U.S. Pacific Air Forces headquartered in Hawaii said on the social media site X. The Malabar naval exercise comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. is scheduled to be held off the Visakhapatnam coast in the first half of October. Shortly after that, an Indian Army mechanised infantry contingent will head to Russia for bilateral exercise Indra.

Largest U.S. contingent

This year's Yudh Abhyas is going to feature one of the largest U.S. contingent at the exercise with around 600 personnel and the U.S. Army also set to deploy Stryker infantry vehicles and the M142 HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System). Incidentally, the Stryker vehicles are currently being put to test by the Indian Army, and a few hundred vehicles of different variants are likely to be procured, including some mounted with the Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs).

The talks for licence-manufacture of the vehicles are in "relatively" early stages, officials said. The U.S. has in the past demonstrated both the Stryker as well as the Javelin ATGM to the Indian Army during bilateral exercises and the Javelin was extensively evaluated by the Indian Army though the deal did eventually fall through. At present, India conducts more military exercises with the United States than with any other country.

The Indian Army's other major engagements include the 10th edition of the bilateral exercise Mitra Shakti with Sri Lanka held from August 12-25 at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.

Four killed after 'hopper' falls on them at refinery

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

At least four workers were killed and three injured after a hopper filled with coal collapsed on them at an alumina refinery in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday, the police said.

The incident happened around 11 a.m. at Maa Kudargarhi Alumina Refinery at Silsila village, an official said.

A hopper that workers also refer to as "bunker" is used to hold fuel such as coal or rice husk in large quantities. As per preliminary information, a hopper made of steel fell on seven workers.

"We rushed the injured to the hospital, where four died by Sunday evening," a senior police officer said.

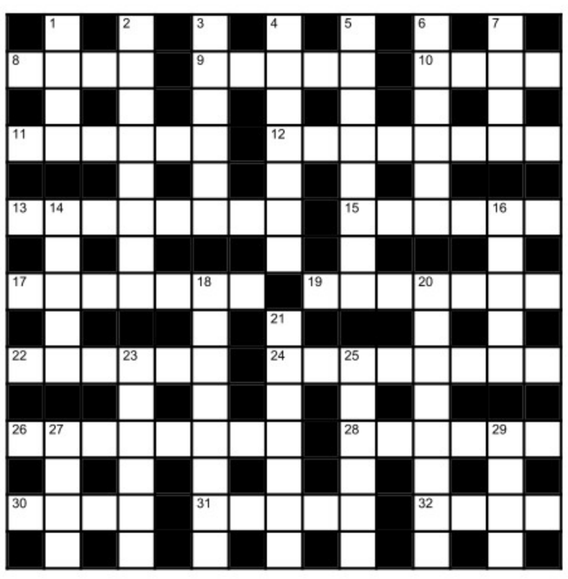
The officer added that *prima facie* there was negligence at the privately owned factory, and they were in the process of registering a case.

TH CROSSWORD + 14275

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 I sat, mixing wine (4)
9 Leaving lunch-room, chum spins synthetic fibre (5)
10 Tuned viola after I left office in DC (4)
11/28 Perhaps, Tun Tun's type of gun (6,6)
12 Folded old file covering one source of fossil fuel (8)
13 Burned shed housing Cricket Club hoarding gold (8)
15 Metro crash on top of rock results in earthquake (6)
17 Anticipated tool's behind forge after girl left (7)
19 European lawmaker bound and evacuated (7)
22 Drawer returned prize (6)
24 Perhaps a person from Down Under gives away a pound for a European (8)
26 Intimidate Hector's cow and badger (8)
28 See 11
30 Food shown in "Home Alone" (4)
31 Oh god! Greek letter and Roman horn (5)
32 Seal faucet with a bit of epoxy (4)

Down

1 Czechoslovakia's capital (4)
2 Flying robins are flying without an iota of sense (8)
3 Heavenly visitor accompanied by husband arrives in the Middle Ages (6)
4 Diana leaving precious stones around middle of England? Nuts! (7)
5 Stowe's character cut melon into pieces (5,3)
6 Amateur's voice trembles after end of ovation (6)
7 Bird: It is usually run over by train (4)
14 Near cul-de-sac (5)
16 After operation, time for entertainment (5)
18 Spectators park European car in front of English church (8)
20 A couple of rats return carrying the first and last bit of cheese producing organic compound (8)
21 Plant note with Catholic politician (7)
23 A high tide, too (2,4)
25 Defeat underwater vessel expected (6)
27 Leer back, showing spool (4)
29 See sixth sense, perhaps, at end of therapy (4)

SUDOKU

	7		1	8				
5		4	2		9			
	1			5		7		9
		8					9	
			5		8			
	3					2		
1		2		9			3	
			7		4	9		6
				3	1		5	

No.SS6275 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

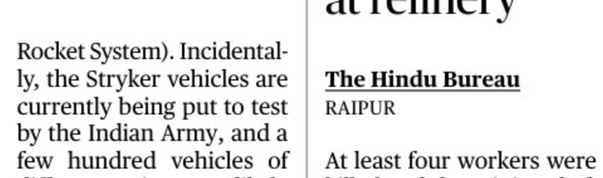
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	P		P		C		I		W		F		D	
C	A	M	E		L	U	B	R	I	C	A	T	E	D
	N		T		O		I		N		S		R	
U	T	T	E	R	S		S	E	D	A	T	I	V	E
	A		R		E				F		E			
C	L	A	P	T	R	A	P		A	N	D	E	A	N
	O		A				O		L				D	
T	O	W	N		P	U	P	I	L		M	O	A	N
	N				O		U				E		M	
U	S	E	S	U	P			P	U	R	E	N	E	S	S
			T		U				I		S		A	
A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S		A	B	R	U	P	T
	H		G		A		T		L		O		P	
C	O	M	M	I	T	M	E	N	T		O	N	L	Y
	P		A		E		W		O		M		E	

Solution to Saturday's Sudoku

8	3	1	5	9	2	4	6	7
2	9	4	7	6	1	8	5	3
6	7	5	8	4	3	1	9	2
5	4	2	9	1	6	3	7	8
7	1	9	3	5	8	6	2	4
3	6	8	4	2	7	5	1	9
9	2	3	6	8	5	7	4	1
1	5	7	2	3	4	9	8	6
4	8	6	1	7	9	2	3	5



FAITH

Blessings come true

The blessings of great men always come true, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. When Pareekshit was born, devout scholars blessed him. Pareekshit turned out to be just the sort of king they had said he would be. He acted according to dharma, and never hurt his subjects. He also had unparalleled devotion to Bhagavan. He sought the counsel of wise men and was calm at all times, even when his end was predicted. He was an ideal king, and thus, the words of the pandits who blessed him came true.

In the Ramayana too, we find that the words of sages prevailed. Using his mystic powers, Indrajith remained invisible, and shot arrows at Rama and Lakshmana. Ravana sent Sita with Trijata in the pushpaka vimana to see Her husband and Lakshmana lying on the ground. Sita cried wondering how the words of sages who had blessed Her could have turned false. They had predicted that She would have sons. Trijata pointed out that if their words were going to be proved false, then the pushpaka vimana would not have brought Sita there. And Trijata turned out to be right, for Rama and Lakshmana recovered and defeated Ravana.

It may seem to us at times that all the predictions of great men have gone wrong. We may face temporary setbacks, but in the end, their words will prevail.

Applying thought to picking right policy

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

Easy as one would like to make it for readers, choosing the right insurance policy takes application of the mind. The customer's mind.

There is no escaping that if health policy X has a set of offerings, it may or may not imply the same fit or value for any two persons. As I promised in the preceding instalment of CoverNote and have written extensively about in various earlier instalments, you can make it simple and smooth and do so by yourself.

Too many variables

Picking up on one of the points in the end/ former colleague's long rant on health insurance (discussed earlier), 'too many variables was a major problem'.

Too many variables and too many variants is a self-defeating situation because too many choices means no choices. One wishes the regulator or the self-regulatory organisations of the insurance industry would recognise and streamline it as was done with mutual fund offerings.

But, back to how to choose an insurance policy. It is an elaborate process and let us do it justice. Here is a toolkit, revisited and revised!

Let us say you are buying health insurance. To be specific, hospitalisation insurance. Today, you can buy one from any general insurance company, life insurance companies apparently will be allowed to offer these policies in the future.

This policy, introduced in the 1984-85 timeframe, when only the four public sector general insurance companies existed, was brand-named Mediclaim. Now, there are several dozen general insurance companies each offering this category with evocative brand names but 'Mediclaim' has come to be used generically for this category.

Arogya Sanjeevani Policy

To start the process of choosing, I strongly recommend you pick an insurance company, any company. Let's say ABC General Insurance Company Ltd. On its website you will find details of various health policies and what you need to pick is the one named 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, ABC General Insurance Company Ltd.'

Mandatory offering

This is a standardised policy devised by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and has to be offered mandatorily by every Indian general insurance company. It has a set of coverages, terms and conditions and even the name is standardised as Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, followed by the company name.

Please study this policy well as it is the template you will use to decide what policy you finally want to buy. What does one look for in a policy? The ensuing instalment of CoverNote will elaborate on that.

Premium calculator

But here is some interesting homework for you, one which you will find illuminating. Look for a premium calculator or premium rate chart on the website and make a note of the premium for your choice of Sum Insured and your age-band.

Now, do the same exercise for two more companies.

Disparate pricing

You will find a range of rates for the same product! This is because insurers are free to set their premium rate for this policy and this would well be your first glimpse of how disparate pricing is and ponder on reasons why. If you can come up with an explanation or justification, do share it in an email with the Moneywise team and we will try to discuss it.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Light on wallet: Chosen wisely, the cards can help frequent travellers save considerably on expenditure. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

How to decide which travel credit card is best for you

Picking the right card needs in-depth analysis of travel needs, preferred form of value-back, understanding how rewards programme works, how efficiently you can maximise benefits, etc.

EASE OF TRAVEL

Rohit Chhibbar

Travel credit cards can be an excellent option for frequent travellers. With benefits like complimentary flight tickets, air miles, lounge access, direct discount on travel booking, etc., cardholders can save a significant amount and, at the same time, make trips more convenient.

To find the best travel credit card for your needs, here are a few things to take into account.

Co-branded, general

Most travel credit cards with substantial value-back options are generally co-branded with popular airlines such as Vistara, Air India, IndiGo or travel portals like EaseMyTrip, Yatra and Ixigo. The cards often come with complimentary memberships to brand loyalty programmes and discount or accelerated rewards on making travel bookings through the associated platforms. Usually, the points earned on such cards are redeemable only on the partner platforms, thus limiting the flexibility.

On the other hand, brand-agnostic cards such as Axis Atlas and American Express Platinum Travel Credit Card, offer accelerated reward points or air miles on card spends.

The accrued rewards can later be redeemed against various options, including conversion to airline or hotel loyalty points.

> Co-branded cards carry complimentary membership to brand loyalty programmes and discount/ accelerated rewards on travel booking via platforms

Premium all-rounder cards with a high reward rate across categories can also help high-spenders accumulate substantial reward points and redeem them for free flight tickets or hotel stay vouchers.

If you prefer to fly with a specific carrier or make bookings via a particular portal, getting a co-branded card could provide you better savings. On the other hand, general travel cards would suit those who do not have brand inclinations when it comes to travel, instead prioritise savings over brand loyalty.

Core value-back

Most travel cards also come with generous welcome or milestone benefits wherein you could avail substantial value-back on reaching a quarterly or yearly spend threshold. For example, Club Vistara IDFC FIRST Credit Card offers 1 complimentary premium economy ticket each on reaching yearly spends of ₹1.5 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹4.5 lakh, ₹9 lakh and ₹12 lakh.

While comparing travel credit cards, it is important to check the reward rate, redemption value and the available redemption options. You should also check if it would be feasible for to reach the spend milestones to avail additional benefits. In case of Club Vistara IDFC FIRST Credit Card, you would be able to maximise the milestone benefit if you can spend ₹12 lakh in a year.

> Brand-agnostic cards such as Axis Atlas and American Express Platinum Travel Credit Card offer accelerated reward points or air miles on card spends

Additional benefits

Most cards also provide additional benefits such as complimentary airport lounge access, complimentary membership to airline or hotel loyalty programmes, travel insurance, low or no forex mark-up fee, etc. Though the features should not be the only deciding factor for card selection, they should still be taken into consideration to understand how beneficial the card could be for your travel needs.

For instance, if you travel multiple times in a year, complimentary lounge access could be quite a valuable feature for you. Similarly, if you frequently travel abroad, a card with international lounge access or low forex mark-up fee could be beneficial for you.

Most credit card features come with a list of exclusions and associated terms and conditions.

Read fine print

Discount on flight tickets could come with a maximum capping, lounge access could come with spend-based eligibility, flight vouchers could be redeemable only for select journeys. Hence, when choosing a card, it is important to read the fine print to understand if applicable terms and conditions could make it difficult for you to extract maximum value out of the card.

Before you compare cards on the above parameters, you should first check eligibility for the cards and the annual fee you are willing to pay for travel benefits. Highly-rewarding travel credit cards generally fall in the fee range of ₹1,500-₹5,000 but if you are looking for extensive all-round benefits, in addition to travel benefits, you might want to consider premium cards with fee going as high as ₹50,000. Premium cards come with high income eligibility.

Picking the right card requires an in-depth analysis of your own travel needs, preferred form of value-back, understanding how a card's rewards programme works, how efficiently you can maximise the benefits, etc. When chosen by taking the above points into account, the cards can prove to be an asset for frequent travellers and help them save considerably.

(The writer is Head of Credit Cards Business, Paisabazaar)

Betting on commodity

THINKINVESTOR

A retail investor has few commodity investment-related choices. Buying physical commodities is not meaningful on account of storage costs leaving you with commodity derivatives/funds

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Many individuals are uncomfortable taking direct exposure to commodities through commodity derivatives.

Yet, investing in commodities is crucial. This is because a rise in commodity prices is typically the reason for increase in general price levels. So, investing in commodities can help you cushion the impact of inflation on household expenses. Here, we discuss if investing in commodity funds is an optimal way of taking exposure to commodities as an asset class.

Market risk

Commodity funds are mutual funds investing in commodity-based companies' shares. Suppose you have a view that crude prices are likely to go up. Taking an appropriate position using crude futures is not the same as buying ONGC shares. Why? The goal of going long on crude futures is to capture the near one-to-one movement that futures contract has with crude spot price. ONGC is listed on the stock exchange. So, the stock is exposed to market risk. There is the risk ONGC may decline in price even if crude prices remain strong. This could happen when large-cap stocks show weak price momentum or when market participants are nervous about stock prices in general because of geopolitical tension or inflationary pressures or health of the world economy. These concerns may not always have an adverse bearing on commodity prices or their derivatives. So, crude futures may be moving up despite ONGC's share price declining. This argument is true for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) too.

Suffice it to know these are structures that enable you to earn income on real- estate investments. Yet, these are not a pure bet on real estate. As in the case of ONGC, REITs are also listed on the stock exchange and are, hence, driven by market risk.

Conclusion

A security that is listed on the stock exchange carries market risk, which is more dominant than asset-specific risks. So, commodity funds may not necessarily capture all the gains from commodity prices.

In other words, if the stock market is weak, it is highly unlikely shares of commodity-based companies will consistently perform well, even if commodity prices remain strong. But as a retail investor, you typically have few choices relating to commodity investments. Buying physical commodities is not meaningful as that would involve storage costs. That leaves you with commodity derivatives or commodity funds. The latter is simple to understand, once you appreciate that such funds are not a pure bet on commodity prices

(The author offers training programmes for individuals for managing their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5.5%
State Bank of India	11.45-14.85	10,984-11,856	2,197-2,371	1.50%(Min Rs 1,000 to Max Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.85 onwards	10,834 onwards	2,167 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda	11.15-18.75	10,909-12,902	2,182-2,580	Up to 2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	10.85-16.10	10,834-12,186	2,167-2,437	0.50%-1% (Min Rs 250 Max Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	10.95-16.40	10,859-12,266	2,172-2,453	0.50% (Max Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.40-17.95	10,772-12,683	2,144-2,537	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Min Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.43	11,487	2,297	Up to 2% of loan (Min. Rs 2,500 Max. Rs 8,500)

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.95 - 12.70	10,367 - 11,300	Up to Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.70 - 12.70	10,307 - 11,300	0.25% (Maximum Rs 2,500)
Bank of India	8.85 - 12.10	10,343 - 11,148	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	9.05-10.10	10,391-10,648	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.65	10,331 - 10,294	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 - 12.00	10,343 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.37	10,350 - 10,964	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.75% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 onwards	10,379 onwards	Up to Rs 10,000
City Union Bank	9.90-11.50	10,599-10,996	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.25% to borrowers having credit scores of 750-799.

Rates and charges as on September 4 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

HANOI

Typhoon Yagi kills 14 in Vietnam as officials warn of heavy rain

AFP

At least 14 persons were killed and 176 injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power. One of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the past decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in north Vietnam. AP

ISLAMABAD

Thousands defy roadblocks in rally for Pakistan former PM Imran

AP

Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan gathered in Islamabad on Sunday despite officials' attempts to block the protesters' main routes into the capital. The protest, led by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, is the largest in Islamabad since he was jailed last year on several charges. AFP

ALGIERS

Algeria's President Tebboune wins second term with 95% of vote

REUTERS

Algerian authorities declared President Abdulmadjid Tebboune the overwhelming winner of Saturday's election on Sunday, but a rival candidate alleged irregularities in the count and fewer than half of registered voters cast ballots. Official preliminary results gave Tebboune 95% of the vote. Turnout was 48%.. REUTERS

SEOUL

N. Korea's Kim emphasises need to strengthen naval capabilities

REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called for strengthening naval power as he toured a naval base construction site. He stressed the need to build a naval port capable of operating weapons systems of the warships and revealed military measures to deploy anti-aircraft and coastal-defence systems for defending the port. REUTERS

Venezuela's Opposition presidential candidate flees for asylum in Spain

Edmundo González feared for his life if he stayed in Venezuela, says Opposition leader Corina Machado; his arrest was ordered after he failed to appear three times in connection with a probe into what officials call an act of electoral sabotage

Associated Press
CARACAS

Former Venezuelan presidential candidate Edmundo González fled into exile in Spain on Sunday after being granted asylum there, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his Opposition campaign to end two decades of single-party rule.

The surprise departure of the man considered by Venezuela's opposition and several foreign governments to be the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late on Saturday by Venezuelan Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez. Election officials had announced President Nicolas Maduro as the winner of the polls.

Final hope: Edmundo Gonzalez was regarded the legitimate winner of July's presidential race by several foreign governments. REUTERS

Ms. Rodríguez said the government decided to grant Mr. González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility."

Mr. González arrived on Sunday at a military airport near Madrid, accompanied by his wife and Spanish officials, Spain's Foreign Ministry said.

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said Ms. González feared for his life if he stayed in Venezuela.

'Bid to break him'

"His life was in danger, and the growing threats, legal citations, arrest orders, and even blackmail attempts that he was subjected to demonstrate that the regime has no scruples or limits in its obsession to silence him and try to break him," Ms. Machado wrote on X.

Spain's center-left government said the decision to leave Venezuela was Mr. González's alone, and he departed on a plane sent by the country's air force.

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said his government will grant Mr. González political asylum as he requested. Mr. Albares spoke from Oman while en route to China with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on a state visit.

Spain's support

In a speech before Mr. González's departure was announced, Mr. Sánchez said the opposition leader was "a hero whom Spain is not going to abandon."

Attorney General Tarek William Saab, a staunch Maduro ally, sought Mr. González's arrest after he failed to appear three times in connection with a criminal investigation into what it considers an act of electoral sabotage.

Russia drones have violated airspace, say 2 NATO nations

Associated Press
KYIV

Two NATO members said on Sunday that Russian drones violated their airspace, as one reportedly flew into Romania during nighttime attacks on neighbouring Ukraine while another crashed in eastern Latvia the previous day.

A drone entered Romanian territory early on Sunday as Moscow struck "civilian targets and port infrastructure" across the Danube in Ukraine, Romania's Ministry of National Defence reported.

Later on Sunday, Latvia's Defence Minister Andris Sprūds said that a Russian drone fell the day before near the town of Rezekne, and had likely strayed into Latvia from neighbouring Belarus.

Russia takes Ukraine town near Pokrovsk

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia said on Sunday that its forces had taken full control of a town in eastern Ukraine as Moscow's forces advance on the strategically important city of Pokrovsk and seek to pierce the Ukrainian defensive front lines.

Russian forces, which control about a fifth of Ukraine since invading in February 2022, are advancing in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to take the whole of the Donbas.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had taken the town of Novohrodivka, which lies 12 km from Pokrovsk, an important rail and road hub for Ukrainian forces in the area.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
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NOTIFICATION

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DIPR/921/DIS/2024

Director,
Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai-106

Three Israelis killed at West Bank crossing as Gaza war continues

Agence France-Presse
ALLENBY BRIDGE

A truck driver shot dead three Israeli guards at a border crossing between the occupied West Bank and Jordan on Sunday before being "eliminated", Israel's military said, as it pounded Hamas targets in Gaza.

The rare attack at the Allenby Bridge crossing comes amid soaring violence in the West Bank with major Israeli raids and attacks by Palestinians, and against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas Gaza war, now in its 12th month.

The military said "a terrorist" reached crossing area, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, in a truck "from Jordan".

The driver "exited the truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces operating at the bridge", a military statement said.

"Three Israeli civilians were pronounced dead as a result of the attack," it said, later clarifying that they were "security guards" and not in the Army or police.

The attacker was shot dead, the military added.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the assailant as a "despicable terrorist" inspired by "a murderous ideology" which he said was fuelled by Iran.

Hamas praised the attack but did not claim responsibility for it.

Sexual orientation, gender questions part of Australia census

Reuters
SYDNEY

Australia will include questions on sexual orientation and gender in its census for the first time, after more than a week of controversy over the centre-left Labor government's earlier decision to exclude them.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said on Sunday the 2026 census would include sexual orientation and gender, although he declined to specify the questions and said the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) would design them later.

"We say to Australians from the LGBTIQ+ community: you matter, you have been heard, you will be counted."

The centre-left government's earlier decision to exclude them had spawned controversy

The questions will be optional and asked of those over 16 years of age. The move reverses an August decision to exclude questions about LGBTIQ+ identity. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said then the government did not want to open up divisive debates. He denied political motives behind the decision amid reports that the government was apprehensive about sparking a culture-war-style campaign ahead of polls.

Bangladesh-India relations should be based on equity and fairness: Yunus

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Sunday said Dhaka wants to maintain good relations with India while asserting that it should be based on equity and fairness.

Mr. Yunus, 84, made the remarks while responding to a question at a meeting with students who had participated in the student-people revolution that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last month, state-run BSS news agency reported.

"We need to maintain good relations with India. But it should be based on equity and fairness," the chief adviser's special assistant Mahfuj Alam quoted him as saying.

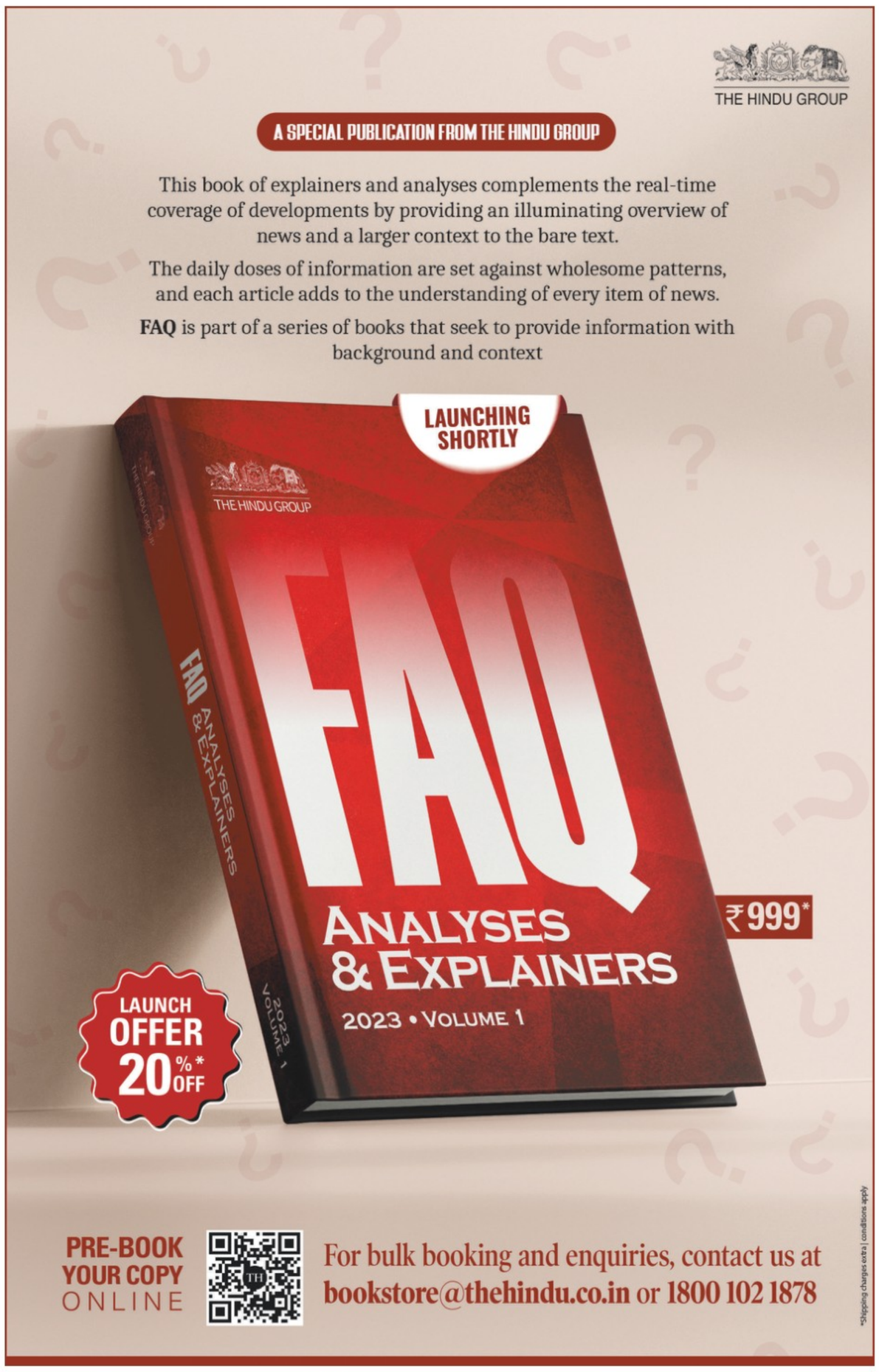
Success show: Demonstrators at a rally organised to mark one month to the ousting of Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP

Mr. Mahfuj added that the chief adviser said Bangladesh always gives importance to mutual respect and equity in maintaining relations with neighbours.

He stressed reviving the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to enhance regional cooperation.

Last week, Mr. Yunus expressed a desire for good ties with India but insisted that New Delhi must abandon the narrative that only Ms. Hasina's leadership ensures the country's stability.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain on Sunday expressed surprise over Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks, emphasising that he does not foresee any immediate threat of conflict between the two neighbours.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FROM THE HEART

'My aim is to educate society that we also exist in this world'

REUTERS

Navdeep Singh, who won the javelin gold in the F41 classification, said: "We deserve the same respect. I, too, have brought glory to the country. My aim is to educate society that we also exist in this world and nobody should make fun of us, which is often the case. We also can make our country proud."

GOLDEN WORDS

Jhajharia's 'winning tip' and the defining moment for Navdeep

PTI

A "small yet powerful advice" from Devendra Jhajharia proved crucial for Navdeep Singh. The former told Navdeep that in a javelin throw, the real power comes from the legs. "People say you throw the javelin with your hands, it's actually driven by your legs. I asked him to engage his right leg to release power from the ground."

STEELY RESOLVE

Simran overcomes the hurdles, powers her way to the podium

ANI

Simran braved the odds to bag the bronze in women's 200m (T12). Born premature, she spent 10 weeks in an incubator and was found to be visually impaired. The 24-year-old, who became a World champion in Kobe earlier this year, faced numerous challenges in her life, including her father's chronic illness and eventual demise.

WARRIOR SPIRIT

From battlefield to Paralympics bronze — the Sema journey

REUTERS

Hokato Sema, who lost his left leg below the knee in a landmine blast during an anti-terrorist operation in 2002, rebuilt his life by taking up para-sport in 2016. "I am very happy today because I am only the second medallist from Indian Army, and this is Indian Army's first medal in athletics," said a delighted Sema.

Golden delight for Navdeep, bright finish for India

He gets the top spot after original winner Sayah of Iran is disqualified for displaying an objectionable flag; Simran sprints to bronze in women's 200m (T12); shot-putter Sema also makes the podium

Tasting success: Navdeep, Simran, and Sema brought joy to Indian fans with a gold and two bronze as the country completed its campaign with a record tally of medals (29). GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS & ANI

Press Trust of India
PARIS

There was no stopping India's great run at the Paralympic Games with javelin thrower Navdeep Singh striking gold in the F41 classification and visually impaired sprinter Simran clinching the women's 200m (T12) bronze on Saturday.

The duo's performance lifted India's medal tally to record-extending 29, including seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze.

Track-and-field has contributed 17, four of them gold.

Navdeep, who competes in the classification meant for athletes of short stature, originally ended with a silver after he upstaged World record holder Sun Pengxiang of China with a 47.32m throw.

However, that was upgraded to gold after Iran's Sadegh Beit Sayah was disqualified for displaying an objectionable flag. Pengxiang (44.72m) finished with a silver.

Sayah had managed to nose ahead of the field with a new Paralympic record of 47.64m in his penultimate throw but lost the medal owing to his antics.

The International Paralympic Committee rules bar athletes from making any political gestures at the event and Sayah was thrown out of the final results for unsporting/improper conduct.

Inspired by Neeraj

Navdeep, who hails from Panipat which is the home town of two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, said he was inspired by the superstar to take up the sport.

"When Neeraj *bhai* broke the junior world record, I thought, he is also from our town and I could also do it," he said.

Impressive run

Simran, accompanied by her guide Abhay Singh, clocked an impressive personal best of 24.75s to finish with a bronze in the women's 200m (T12) event. The 24-year-old from Delhi is the reigning World champion in this event.

She had finished fourth in the 100m competition of the ongoing Games.

Landmine-blast survivor Hokato Sema came up with a career-best throw of 14.65m to secure a bronze medal in the men's F57 shot put final on Friday.

Pooja Ojha failed to finish inside the top-three to miss the final berth of the women's single 200m KL1 sprint canoeing event, bringing an end to India's record-breaking campaign at the Paralympics here on Sunday.

Pooja disappoints

On the concluding day of the Games, Pooja was the last Indian in the fray and she finished her semifinal 1 with a timing of 1:17.03, which was 7.03 seconds behind the third-placed Eleonora de Paolis of Italy.

Canoe sprinter Prachi Yadav finished eight in women's VL2 200m finals. The 29-year-old had made the finals after ending third in the semifinals.

Arshad Shaik and Jyoti Gaderiya wrapped up their journey without any medals, finishing the men's and women's road race C1-3 events a lap behind the leaders.

Final medals table

	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	94	76	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	USA	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	**India**	**7**	**9**	**13**	**29**

Gritty Sabalenka roars back after a tough year

US OPEN

Reuters
NEW YORK

Tenacious tiger-tattooed Aryna Sabalenka embodied the spirit of her favourite animal in New York this year as she clawed her way back from injury and disappointment to hoist the U.S. Open trophy at last.

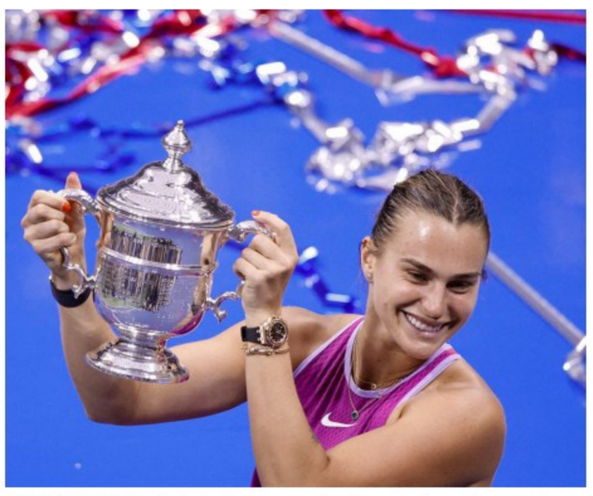
The World No. 2 retained her title at the Australian Open but suffered a back injury in Rome and crashed out with illness in the Roland Garros quarterfinal. She missed Wimbledon entirely due to a shoulder injury.

Her signature tiger arm tattoo became a fitting emblem then as she roared back on to the tour to win last month's Cincinnati tune-up event and swiped aside competitors in Flushing Meadows.

She dropped only one set on the road to the final and downed American Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 after finishing runner-up a year ago. She had two previous semifinal appearances, as well.

"I faced a lot of challenges on and off the court," the Belarusian said.

"That's why it's very special, because no matter what, every time I was coming back stronger and I was learning. I never gave up on this dream, and yeah, you know, it means a lot."



Eye of the tiger: Sabalenka dropped only one set on the road to the final and downed Pegula in straight sets to take the title. AFP

Sinner ahead
Sinner was leading 6-3, 2-2 in the final against Fritz

Her tiger tattoo has become a must-have for her devotees – at least temporary ink – as a young superfan charmed crowds in the second round with a wash-off tiger tattoo and matching kit.

For Saturday's championship match at Arthur Ashe Stadium, her performance coach Jason Stacy arrived with the tiger tattoo on his head, which she slapped with satisfaction after winning the title.

The pair has come up with other superstitions around Stacy's bald head, as she began signing it with a marker – a strange pre-match ritual before her successful Australian Open defence.

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner on Friday became the first Italian man to reach the US Open final by defeating an ailing Jack Draper in straight sets.

Sinner came through 7-5, 7-6(3), 6-2 and will face Taylor Fritz for the title on Sunday.

A clearly unwell Draper, the first British man in the semifinals since Andy Murray won the title in 2012, wilted in the closing stages, having vomited on court earlier in the match.

"Jack and I know each other very well, we are great friends off court," said Sinner who unleashed 43 winners in the match where he also injured his wrist in a nasty fall.

"It was a very physical match. He's so tough to beat so I'm excited to be in the final."

Goa Challengers defends its crown in majestic style

Momentous: The Goa team became the first two-time champion in the tournament's history. R. RAGU

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
CHENNAI

History was in the making irrespective of the result of the Ultimate Table Tennis league's Season 5 final on Saturday. It was the first time the tournament was going to witness a two-time champion.

Despite a boisterous crowd at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium supporting Dabang Delhi TTC – the adopted local team with G. Sathiyan at its helm – Goa Challengers defended its title in style. The Delhi franchise barely stood a chance – such was the command of the Challengers, as it raced to a 8-2 win with five games to spare in the final.

Both the teams went for the kill in the draw, pitting their captains Sathiyan and Harmeet – arch-rivals since their sub-junior days – against each other first up. Sathiyan got off the blocks in no time, riding on the crowd's support, and executing his short serves and shorter receives to perfection.

In the second game, however, Harmeet found his mojo and started executing his robust forehand topspins beautifully. Once he started combining the forehand winners with his trademark flicks on both flanks, Sathiyan was found clueless as Harmeet comfortably gave the Challengers an early advantage.

Yangzi Liu then tilted the tie firmly in Goa's favour, winning all three games against southpaw Orawan Paranang. Despite stunning Bernadette Szocs 3-0 to play a crucial role in Delhi's semifinal win the night before, Paranang couldn't repeat heroics as Yangzi controlled the match with her soft-pimpled backhand rubber to perfection.

Paranang came close to handing Delhi a much-needed point, stretching the second game into a golden point.

Despite enjoying the advantage of a serve, she made a backhand error to hand Yangzi the game.

The confidence they had derived from the singles win trickled into the mixed doubles tie as Harmeet and Yangzi won two of the three mixed doubles game before veteran Mihai Bobocica finished the tie off by winning the first game against Andreas Levenko.

The result (final): Athlead Goa Challengers bt Dabang Delhi TTC 8-2 (Harmeet Desai bt G. Sathiyan 6-11, 11-9, 11-6; Yangzi Liu bt Orawan Paranang 11-2, 11-10, 11-9; Harmeet & Yangzi bt Sathiyan & Paranang 9-11, 11-8, 11-9; Mihai Bobocica bt Andreas Levenko 11-7).

Pant, Rahul back for Tests; Dayal included

Pant and Yash Dayal. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sports Bureau

Rishabh Pant will return to Test cricket for the first time in nearly two years since his life-threatening accident in December 2022 after being drafted into India's squad for the first game of the two-match series against Bangladesh. Incidentally, the 26-year-old's last Test came against Bangladesh in Mirpur just days before his accident.

On Sunday, the BCCI's senior selection committee named a 16-man squad led by skipper Rohit Sharma for the first Test that starts in Chennai on September 19.

The team for the second Test will be announced later.

K.L. Rahul, who played only one Test in the series against England earlier this year before pulling out with a quadriceps injury, is also back in the squad.

On the bowling front, left-arm pacer Yash Dayal has earned his maiden call-up to the national team, and he is part of a four-man pace attack that includes Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep, who made his debut against England earlier this year.

There are no surprises in the spin department, though, with R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav all available, forming a potent line-up.

Pant has eased back into international cricket since the start of the IPL this year and was part of the T20 World Cup-winning squad. He also played in an ODI in Sri Lanka.

However, it remains to be seen if he will start ahead of incumbent Dhruv Jurel, who was impressive with the bat and gloves in the series against England.

The squad (for first Test):
Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, and Yash Dayal.

The schedule: First Test: Sept. 19 to 23 (Chennai); **Second:** Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 (Kanpur).

Akash's heroics not enough as India-B trumps India-A

The medium-pacer doubles down on his exploits with the ball (four for 60 & five for 56) with a counter-attacking 43 at the fag end of the chase; Gill's men fall short by 76 runs

DULEEP TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India-B defeated India-A by 76 runs to win their Duleep Trophy opener at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

In pursuit of 275 from a maximum of 78 overs, the Shubman Gill-led side fell well short of the target. If not for No. 9 batter Akash Deep's hard-hitting 43 (42, 3x4, 4x6), the margin would have been more unflattering.

Though on the losing side, Akash had a splendid match, finishing with a match haul of nine wickets (four for 60 & five for 56) and 54 runs.

It was the 27-year-old who in fact gave India-A a sniff. As India-B started from an overnight 150 for six – 240 runs in the green – Akash dismissed three of the four remaining batters in quick time with some splendid bowling.

The pick of the dismissals was of Washington Sundar, whose off-stump went cartwheeling after the delivery nipped back and beat the inside edge.

The positive vibes generated touched the India-A batters too. Though Mayank Agarwal departed early, with Nitish Kumar Reddy completing a superb catch at second slip, Gill (21, 35b, 2x4) and Riyan Parag (31, 18b, 1x4, 3x6) tried to make a good fist of the chase.

Decisive strike: Saini dismissed Gill and brought the game back in India-B's control.
K. MURALI KUMAR

The latter, especially, was in a murderous mood as he slammed Mukesh Kumar and Yash Dayal for three fierce maximums. But Dayal changed his line by coming round the wicket and had Parag caught behind. Gill fell soon after, edging to 'keeper Rishabh Pant while trying an expansive drive. Dhruv Jurel and Tanush Kotian did not trouble the scorers as India-A was reduced to 76 for five.

K.L. Rahul made a patient 57 (121b, 7x4), but found little support. Though Shivam Dube (14, 27b, 2x4) and Kuldeep Yadav (14, 56b, 1x4) hung around for a bit, the quick runs that India-A needed never came. Akash provided the spark, smacking four sixes including three over mid-wicket, but it was too little and a little too late.

The scores: India-B — 1st innings: 321.
India-A — 1st innings: 231.
India-B — 2nd innings: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Jurel b Khaleel 9, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Jurel b Akash 4, Musheer Khan c Jurel b Akash 0, Sarfaraz Khan c Jurel b Avesh 46, Rishabh Pant c sub b Kotian 61, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Jurel b Khaleel 19, Washington Sundar b Akash 9, R. Sai Kishore c Jurel b Akash 0, Navdeep Saini c Jurel b Akash 13, Yash Dayal c Gill b Khaleel 16, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 0; Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-4): 7; Total (in 42 overs): 184.
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-14, 3-22, 4-94, 5-140, 6-150, 7-151, 8-160, 9-176.
India-A bowling: Khaleel 15-4-69-3, Akash 14-2-56-5, Avesh 6-1-18-1, Kuldeep 3-0-26-0, Kotian 3-0-10-1, Parag 1-0-2-0.
India-A — 2nd innings: Mayank Agarwal c Nitish b Dayal 3, Shubman Gill c Pant b Saini 21, Riyan Parag c Pant b Dayal 31, K.L. Rahul c Pant b Mukesh 57, Dhruv Jurel c Jaiswal b Dayal 0, Tanush Kotian c Pant b Mukesh 0, Shivam Dube c Musheer b Nitish 14, Kuldeep Yadav c Musheer b Washington 14, Akash Deep run out 43, Avesh Khan c Pant b Saini 3, Khaleel Ahmed (not out) 4; Extras (b-4, lb-2, nb-2): 8; Total (in 53 overs): 198.
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-51, 3-75, 4-76, 5-76, 6-99, 7-141, 8-170, 9-183.
India-B bowling: Mukesh 10-1-50-2, Dayal 12-1-50-3, Saini 12-1-41-2, Washington 7-1-14-1, Nitish 3-0-8-1, Jaiswal 1-0-1-0, Sai Kishore 6-0-16-0, Musheer 2-1-12-0.
PoM: Musheer.

Abysmal over-rates a worrying sign

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

One of the slated aims of asking the cream of Indian cricket, barring a select few, to play the Duleep Trophy was to ensure that they were fit and firing for the 10 Tests Rohit Sharma & Co. will play over the next four months.

Promisingly, in the first-round match between India-A and India-B at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here, key batters like Rishabh Pant and K.L. Rahul got runs and the second-rung pacers in Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar impressed with their wicket-taking ability.

But the outfits faltered in one crucial aspect – maintaining healthy over-rates. In a contest where speedsters bowled 218 of the 283.4 overs, teams were 11 overs short on day one, 16 on day two and 18 on day three, despite the 30-minute extension daily. On the final day on Sunday, with just 40 minutes left for the scheduled close, there were still 30 overs to be bowled!

"One of the reasons is DRS," a seasoned umpire told *The Hindu*. "Many times, players despite knowing that they have no chance of success, ask for reviews. Also, strategising mid-over and between successive balls has increased. If there is a misfield, the fielder is immediately moved and the whole set-up changes. Just when the bowler is about to deliver, the captain has a new idea!"

> Strategising mid-over and between successive balls has increased
> **A SEASONED UMPIRE**

In international cricket, points are docked for slow over-rates. In the Duleep Trophy, there are just financial penalties and a maximum ban of one match for the skipper. It is worth remembering that Australia missed out on playing the inaugural World Test Championship final in 2021 because it was docked four points for being two overs behind in the Melbourne Test against India.

Fines not enough

"There should be strict enforcement. In this day and age, the 5 or 10% financial penalties mean nothing. That's why they are taking it easy," the umpire added.

India has so far qualified for both WTC finals, but it isn't immune to the problem.

While playing abroad, where pacers do the heavy lifting, the side has been penalised, most notably in the 2022 Edgbaston Test versus England and the 2023 Centurion game against South Africa.

If India doesn't want a repeat of the same, it is imperative that it kicks the habit sooner than later, for of the 10 Tests it will play, five are away in Australia.

The next two rounds of the Duleep Trophy can be a good place to start.

Sri Lanka needs 219 for a consolation win

SL IN ENG

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Sri Lanka was 94 for one, chasing a target of 219, in the third Test against England at The Oval on Sunday.

The hosts collapsed to 82 for seven in their second innings before wicketkeeper Jamie Smith's 67 on his Surrey home ground helped them recover to 156 all out.

Lahiru Kumara took four for 21 and fellow pacer Vishwa Fernando three for 40 as Sri Lanka attempted to avoid an eighth successive Test loss against England. Pope's men, 2-0 up in the three-match series, are bidding for a first home Test sweep since 2004 after routing the West Indies 3-0 earlier in the season.

Lahiru Kumara. GETTY IMAGES

The scores: England 325 in 69.1 overs & 156 in 34 overs (Smith 67, Kumara 4/21) vs Sri Lanka 263 in 61.2 overs & 94/1 in 15 overs (Nissanka 53 batting).

Moeen retires from international cricket

Associated Press
LONDON

England all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from international cricket after being overlooked for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia.

Mooen played 68 Tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20Is for England, winning the World Cup in both the shorter forms. "It felt the time was right. I've done my part. I could hold on and try to play for England again, but I know in reality I won't," he said.

Moeen. GETTY IMAGES

Porel takes India-C home; Ruturaj, Juyal and Patidar shine

Abhishek Saini
ANANTAPUR

Abishek Porel (35 n.o., 63b, 4x4, 1x6) trampled on India-D's hopes of a last-minute hijack and anchored India-C to a four-wicket victory on Saturday in the first round of Duleep Trophy at the Rural Development Trust Stadium.

Manav Suthar's 43-ball 19 complemented Porel in the unbeaten 42-run seventh-wicket partnership that helped India-C to 233 runs, the highest successful run chase at the venue.

The stirring finish was nowhere on the cards when Aryan Juyal (47, 74b, 3x4, 1x6) and Rajat Patidar (44, 77b, 6x4, 1x6) added 88 for the third wicket.

But India-C slumped to 191 for six before Porel and Manav Suthar kept their heads and ensured Ruturaj Gaikwad (46, 48b, 8x4) and Sai Sudharsan's early work was not undone.

The scores: India-D – 1st innings: 164.
India-C – 1st innings: 168.
India-D – 2nd innings: Atharva Taide c & b Vyshak 15, Yash Dubey lbw b Vyshak 5, Shreyas Iyer c Ruturaj b Kamboj 54, Devdutt Padikkal c Indrajith b Suthar 56, Ricky Bhui lbw b Suthar 44, K.S. Bharat c Patidar b Suthar 16, Axar Patel c Ruturaj b Suthar 28, Saransh Jain lbw b Suthar 0, Arshdeep Singh c Patidar b Suthar 0, Harshit Rana (not out) 12, Aditya Thakare b Suthar 0; Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-1, nb-1): 6; Total (in 58.1 overs): 236.
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-40, 3-93, 4-166, 5-186, 6-203, 7-203, 8-203, 9-236.
India-C bowling: Anshul 12-1-49-1, Vyshak 12-1-61-2, Himanshu 8-0-48-0, Shokeen 7-1-25-0, Suthar 19.1-7-49-7.
India-C – 2nd innings: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Shreyas b Saransh 46, Sai Sudharsan c Bhui b Saransh 22, Aryan Juyal c Rana b Arshdeep 47, Rajat Patidar st. Bharat b Saransh 44, B. Indrajith c Taide b Saransh 7, Abishek Porel (not out) 35, Hrithik Shokeen c Bhui b Axar 0, Manav Suthar (not out) 19; Extras (lb-5, w-2, nb-6): 13; Total (for six wickets, in 61 overs): 233.
Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-77, 3-165, 4-171, 5-184, 6-191.
India-D bowling: Rana 6-0-39-0, Arshdeep 9-1-37-1, Saransh 22-2-92-4, Axar 22-6-54-1, Thakare 2-0-6-0.

Hyderabad batters set solid platform

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
DINDIGUL

Riding on half-centuries from M. Abhirath Reddy (85) and Rohit Rayudu (74 batting), Hyderabad ended the opening day of the Buchi Babu final at 288 for six against Chhattisgarh at the NPR College Ground here on Sunday.

Electing to bat, Hyderabad started strongly, thanks to a positive approach from openers Abhirath and Tanmay Agarwal, as the duo stitched a brisk 67-run partnership.

On a slow surface where Chhattisgarh employed only one pacer, Abhirath went after the spinners, employing the sweep shots to find five quick hits to the fence.

Though the tweakers got the ball to turn a fair amount, the batters had time to adjust and play their shots without risk.

A job at hand: Rohit will be keen on batting long and putting the game out of Chhattisgarh's reach. G. MOORTHY

Left-arm spinner Gagandeep Singh gave Chhattisgarh the breakthrough when he got one to turn sharply into Tanmay to trap him in front.

Soon after, off-spinner Shashank Tiwari removed skipper Rahul Singh, chipping one to short-midwicket.

Abhirath then shunned his expansive strokeplay and, alongside Rohit, got the innings back on track during their 87-run alliance. Once he reached his half-century, Abhirath stepped up a gear and found the boundaries easily again, including a maximum over long-on.

However, against the run of play, he pulled a half-tracker from offie Mohammad Irfan to the square-leg fielder, falling 15 short of his ton.

Chhattisgarh then got on top with two more wickets, reducing the southern team to 198 for five. But Rohit and Rahul Ridesh (48) kept the spinners at bay, adding 79 runs for the sixth wicket before the latter was dismissed two overs before stumps.

The scores: Hyderabad 288/6 in 90 overs (M. Abhirath Reddy 85, Rohith Rayudu 74 batting, Rahul Radesh 48) vs Chhattisgarh.
Toss: Hyderabad.

Defending champion India starts with a victory

ACT

Press Trust of India
HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

The Indian men's hockey team dished out a dominant performance to launch its title defence with a commanding 3-0 win over host China in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Sunday. Sukhjeet Singh (14th minute), Uttam, Singh (27th) and Abhishek (32nd) were the scorers for India.

India looked the more enterprising side, grabbing opportunities upfront and was rock solid in defence to emerge the winner.

"We created some good chances but the best part is that we kept a clean sheet," captain Harmanpreet Singh said. India will play Japan on Monday.

Afghanistan meets NZ for the first time in a Test

Shayan Acharya
GREATER NOIDA

It wasn't the ideal build-up to a Test. It rained throughout the day, the groundsmen ran from one end of the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium to another hoping to get the pitch covered. The players from Afghanistan and New Zealand had a few moments of laughter in the dressing room balcony after they were forced to miss out on a large part of their training session on the eve of the one-off Test.

However, both teams are focusing on their strategies.

Afghanistan will be featuring in its 10th Test match in six years, and it will be the first time the Asian nation will play a red-ball fixture against New Zealand, which also returns to the format after a six-month gap. "Conditions are foreign to what we are used to," said NZ captain Tim Southee.

Unveiling the trophy: Captains Southee and Shahidi with the prize the teams would compete for. R.V. MOORTHY

In a big blow, Ibrahim Zadran has been ruled out of the Test against New Zealand and also the three-match ODI series against South Africa due to an ankle sprain in his left leg.

Afghanistan will miss its star spinner Rashid Khan, who has taken a break from the red-ball format.

Sarthak speeds to victory in four races

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Sarthak Chavan (TVS Racing team) capped a brilliant weekend by winning four of the five races he took part in at the fourth and penultimate round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2024 at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

Sarthak completed a grand double in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category besides winning Race-2 of the Pro-Stock 165cc Open and the TVS Electric RTE race. To top it, he received Indian Oil special awards for posting the fastest laps on Saturday and Sunday.

The results (Provisional, all 6 laps unless mentioned):
National championship:
Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: Race-2: 1. Sarthak Chavan (11mins, 07.139secs); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (11:08.980); 3. A. Alwin Sundar (11:10.406). **Race-1:** 1. Sarthak (11:06.531); 2. Chiranth (11:07.005); 3. Rajini Krishnan (11:07.445).
Pro-Stock 165cc Open: Race-2: 1. Sarthak (11:33.380); 2. K.Y. Ahamed (11:33.655); 3. Jagan Kumar (11:42.248). **Race-1:** 1. Chiranth (11:36.813); 2. Sarthak (11:37.144); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (11:39.098).
Novice (Stock 165cc): Race-2: 1. Abdul Basim (12:55.319); 2. Tasmai Cariappa (12:55.563); 3. Lal Nunsanga (13:06.387). **Race-1:** 1. Tasmai (12:54.080); 2. R.S. Abdul Basim (12:54.197); 3. Kamal Niwas (13:10.998).
Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps): Race-2: 1. Ryhana Bee (10:55.879); 2. Rakshita Dave (11:05.008); 3. Jagathishree Kumaresan (11:05.156). **Race-1:** 1. Ryhana (10:58.147); 2. Jagathishree (11:05.691); 3. Rakshita (11:05.793).
Stock 301-400cc (Novice): Race-2: 1. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (12:16.248); 2. C. Pradeep (12:17.309); 3. Raj Kumar (12:17.469). **Race-1:** 1. Pradeep (12:18.943); 2. Kaushik (12:20.582); 3. Aldrin Babu (12:22.718).
Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R, 8 laps): Race-2: 1. Mohsin Paramban (15:06.939); 2. Prakash Kamat (15:08.635); 3. Siddesh Sawant (15:11.172). **Race-1:** 1. Mohsin (11:22.639); 2. Siddesh (11:23.163); 3. Prakash (11:23.280).
TVS India One-Make Championship: Open (Apache RR 310) Race-2: 1. C. Senthilkumar (11:43.600); 2. Manoj Yesuadian (11:43.988); 3. C. Raj Kumar (11:49.742). **Race-1:** 1. Raj Kumar (11:48.043); 2. Manoj (11:48.455); 3. Senthilkumar (11:48.567).
Rookie (Apache RTR 200) Race-2: 1. Harshith V Bogar (13:20.484); 2. Akarsh Jangam (13:20.600); 3. B.A. Tejash (Tumakuru) (13:30.522). **Race-1:** 1. C.S. Kedarnath (13:29.012); 2. Harshith (13:29.760); 3. Akarsh Jangam (13:29.811).
Electric RTE (4 laps): 1. Sarthak (07:20.468); 2. Chiranth (07:24.199); 3. Alwin (07:26.215).
Girls (Apache RTR 200, 4 laps): 1. S.P. Shuria (09:04.823); 2. Saimah Ajaz Baig (09:04.888); 3. V. Aisvariya (09:16.913).
Note: *Race 2 was held on Sunday and Race 1 on Saturday.*

Great outing: It was a weekend to remember for Sarthak.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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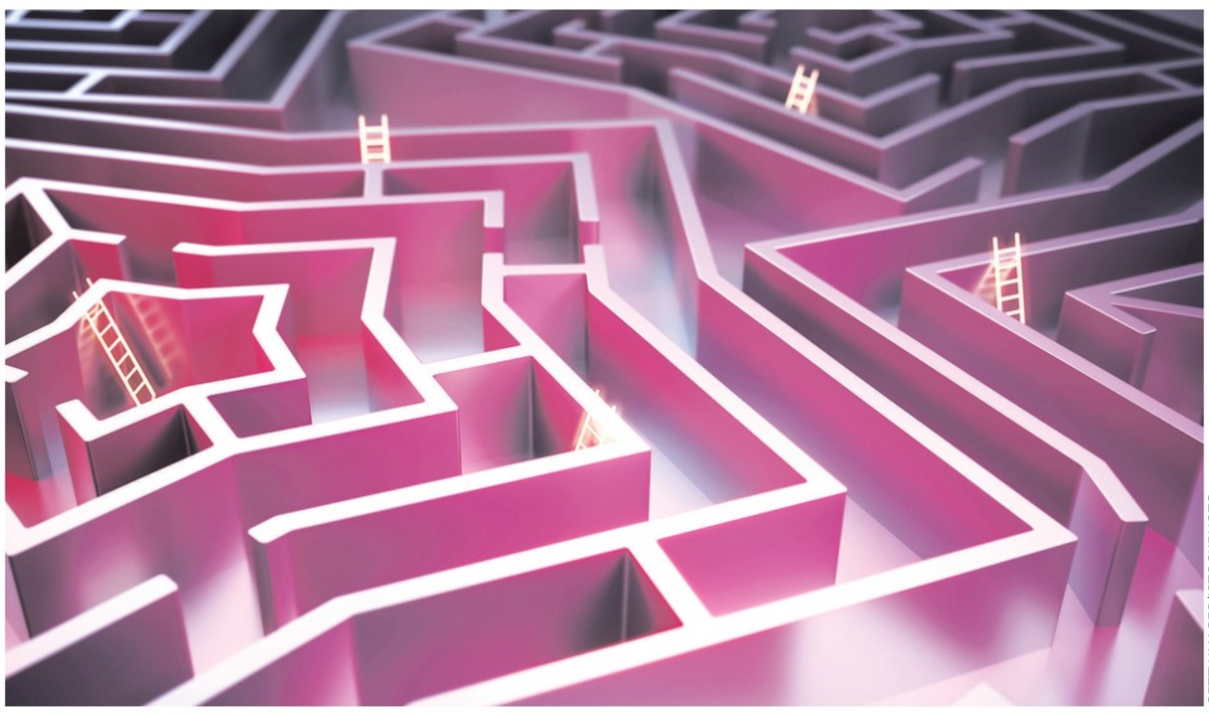
EDUCATIONPLUS

Rishab Kapur



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Navigating the future

Spatial literacy is a fundamental ability that students need to develop and India needs to integrate programmes into the educational curriculum

Envision a learning environment where students using VR headsets can virtually explore detailed structures of the human brain, moving through neural pathways and connections. This immersive experience is fascinating and emerging technologies like virtual reality (VR) and three-dimensional (3D) visualisation are transforming education by making abstract ideas tangible. But, even with these developments, spatial literacy remains a crucial element that cannot be understated.

What is it?

Spatial literacy involves skills such as mental rotation, spatial visualisation, and understanding spatial relationships. These abilities are essential in a variety of professions, including engineering, design, architecture, data visualisation and more. With the introduction of VR and 3D visualisation, we observe an increase in spatial literacy's significance. Technologies that offer immersive learning environments may turn abstract ideas into concrete lessons and students understand difficult concepts better.

A National Science Foundation survey claims that students who excel in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses do better when they have great spatial skills. Additionally, a survey by the American Educational Research Association found that 80% of teachers believe that incorporating 3D visualisation tools into the curriculum significantly improves students' spatial reasoning skills and understanding of the concept. Spatial literacy is a fundamental ability that enables us to interpret data and understand spatial aspects in our daily and professional lives.

Many countries such as the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Singapore and Finland already have spatial literacy programmes to ensure that every student can develop spatial skills for future success. However, some many educational institutions, especially in India, still rely predominantly on traditional teaching methods. It is becoming increasingly important to close this educational gap to guarantee that our students are suitably equipped with this knowledge.

Importance

Spatial literacy plays a crucial role in STEM careers. Engineers require it to design complicated structures while scientists use it to understand geological patterns and molecular formation. Its impact in Maths can be seen in solving geometric problems and visualising data. In fields like Robotics and VR, developers use spatial knowledge to make engaging 3D environments. Robotics engineers take full advantage of spatial reasoning to design the robots in a more coordinated way. Besides this, spatial skills are required for data analysts, architects, urban planners and others.

Avoiding spatial literacy can bring significant risks, which will make it difficult for young minds to stay competitive in the digital world. These include:

Competitive Disadvantage: Students who lack spatial literacy will lag in the evolving global job market. They will struggle to get selected in a big organisation as spatial literacy helps in effective teamwork and efficient decision-making.

Impact on Cognitive Development: Lack of spatial literacy will limit problem-solving capabilities and hinder cognitive development leading to difficulties in understanding newer complex topics.

Exclusion from Digital World: If individuals want to participate in the digital world, they need to develop spatial skills. Otherwise, they cannot understand newer technologies, which further will limit their capabilities to take advantage of those innovations.

Broader Social Implications: Limited knowledge of spatial reasoning can lead to decreased innovation and economic growth, as people will face problems in coping with quick technological changes leading to reduced productivity.

There are many ways in which spatial literacy can be integrated into education to simplify understanding of critical concepts. The concept also needs to be included in teacher training programmes and professional development modules. While the National Education Policy 2020 recommends the use of tools like AR and VR to teach, implementation remains a challenge.

In the future, constant advances in technology will make spatial technologies more accessible and crucial in our daily lives. So, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders must take spatial learning seriously and ensure our students can develop these skills for a better and brighter future.

The writer is the Co-Founder and VP of Strategic Alliances, Edverse

SCHOLARSHIPS

NSP Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students
An initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
Eligibility: Open to Indian students from the Scheduled Caste (SC) category who have passed the Class 12 exam with at least 60% marks and have been admitted to a UG/ PG programme. Annual family income should be less than ₹8 lakhs.
Rewards: ₹86,000 in the first year and ₹41,000 for every subsequent year.
Application: Online
Deadline: October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/SJEE2

AICTE-Saksham Scholarship Scheme
An initiative from the Ministry of Education, (formerly MHRD) Government of India, and implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals from a specially -abled category, with a benchmark disability of not less than 40% who are in the first or second year (through lateral entry) of a degree/ diploma programme in an AICTE-approved institution. Annual family income should be less than ₹8 lakhs.
Rewards: ₹50,000 per annum
Application: Online
Deadline: October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/ ASSGI

AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls
An initiative to support girls pursuing technical education.
Eligibility: Open to female Indian nationals in the first year of a diploma or degree programme at an AICTE-approved institution or second year of a diploma or degree programme through lateral entry at an AICTE-approved institution. Annual family income should be less than ₹8 lakhs.
Rewards: ₹50,000 per annum
Application: Online
Deadline: October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/ ASDA1

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INBRIEF

Velavan wins ACE Challenger tournament in Malaysia

Top seed Velavan Senthilkumar beat fourth seed Noor Zaman of Pakistan 11-5, 11-7, 11-9 in the final of the $12,000 Men's ACE Challenger tournament in Kuala Lumpur for his ninth PSA title.

Green leads Australia to T20I series sweep of Scotland

Cameron Green starred with both bat and ball as Australia completed a 3-0 sweep of Scotland from the T20I series in Edinburgh on Saturday. All-rounder Green top-scored with an unbeaten 62 after taking three for 35 as Australia chased down 149 with 23 balls to spare.

The scores: Scotland 149/9 in 20 overs (Brandon McMullen 56, Cameron Green 3/35) lost to Australia 154/4 in 16.1 overs (Green 62).

Marquez wins San Marino and Rimini Riviera MotoGP

Marc Marquez won the San Marino and Rimini Riviera MotoGP on Sunday while Francesco Bagnaia closed in on championship leader Jorge Martin whose gamble on changing for rain tyres came with a heavy cost.

Sehaj and Mahika claim under-18 tennis titles

Sehaj Singh Pawar and Mahika Khanna emerged victorious in the KSLTA-ITF Junior World tour J30 Bengaluru tennis tournament at Jain International Residential school in Bengaluru. In the boys' singles under-18 final, top-seed Sehaj Singh ousted Ojas Mehlawat 6-2, 6-1. In the girls' under-18 final, fifth-seed Mahika took out Snigdha Kanta 6-3, 6-4.

Varun, Eshanth, and Rivaan drive to victory

Varun Hari Praveen, Eshanth Vengatesan and Rivaan Dev Preetham emerged champions in the fourth round of the Meco-FMSCI National karting championship Rotax Max 2024 at Meco Kartopia track on Sunday.

The results (winners): Senior Max: Varun Hari Praveen (Chennai, Peregrine Racing) 15:11.207s; **junior Max:** Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSport) 14:01.468s. **Micro Max:** Rivaan Dev Preetham (Chennai, MSport) 12:40.762s

LIVE TELECAST

Afghanistan vs New Zealand: Only Test, day 1, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

England vs Sri Lanka: 3rd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m.

India has its task cut out in its quest for the crown

Head coach Marquez says he will tweak the line-up for the all-important clash against Syria; the Blue Tigers need all three points to emerge the champion while a draw will suffice for the visitor

FOOTBALL

Aneesh Dey
HYDERABAD

All to play for: Lana and Marquez have a chance to claim their first international trophy with their respective teams. AIFF MEDIA

The India men's football team has its first chance of lifting silverware under new head coach Manolo Marquez as it takes on Syria in their second match of the 2024 Intercontinental Cup at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium here on Monday.

Heading into the clash, the Blue Tigers need to grab three points against Syria after playing out a goalless draw against Mauritius in their opening fixture.

On the other hand, Syria tops the standings with three points after beating Mauritius 2-0.

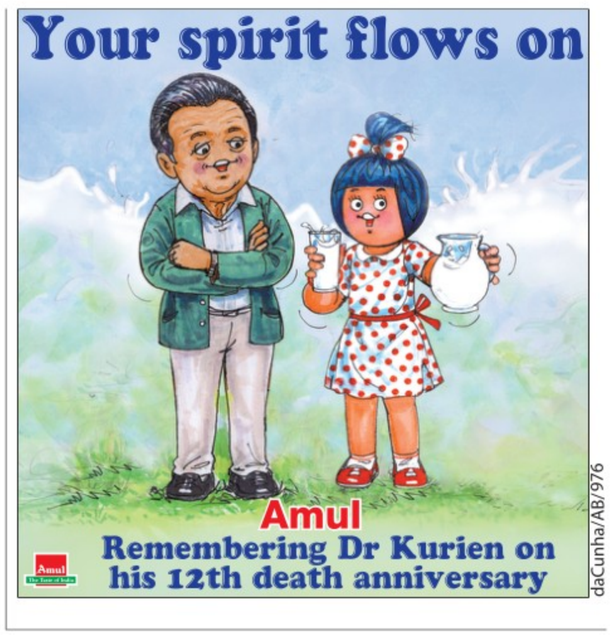
A draw will suffice for the visitor to win the Intercontinental Cup, which would also be its first prize under new coach Jose Lana.

"It is a friendly game, but the team who wins [the game] will win the trophy. It is going to be a tough game, but let's see what happens," Marquez said in the pre-match press conference on Sunday.

Marquez, who described his managerial debut with India as a "boring game", cited lack of preparation time as the reason for India's dull performance against the Mauritians, confirming he will change the lineup against Syria.

Despite being in an advantageous position after winning the first match, Syria coach Lana knows the job is far from done.

"I like the way they play with this coach. They try to move the ball fast. They know how to play when they don't have the ball... I think it will be a difficult match for us. Our objective is to be better than our previous match," Lana said.



Dravid delights crowd at Mount Joy golden jubilee celebration

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Dravid. ASHWIN ACHAL

Former India captain Rahul Dravid stole the show at the golden jubilee celebration event of Mount Joy Cricket Club here on Sunday.

Dravid arrived with another cricket stalwart, G.R. Viswanath.

Dravid felicitated key members of Mount Joy CC – K.V. Sathyamurthy, secretary B.K. Ravi, and others. He greeted the many State players produced by the club – B.R. Sharath, Yere Goud, Anand Katti, J. Suchith, C. Raghu, G.K. Anil Kumar and others.

Dravid took particular delight in interacting with promising junior cricketers from the club.

Ravi recalled an occasion when Mount Joy CC was dominating a match in Mysuru in the 1980's, only to be foiled by a young schoolboy who batted with great gumption in the opposing team. "That schoolboy was none other than Rahul Dravid," Ravi said, to big applause from the packed house.

Dravid, who played for Bangalore United CC (BUCC), stressed on the need for a strong club cricket structure. "Young boys and girls who practice at a cricket club learn about discipline, teamwork and fitness. Being part of a club is not just about representing the State or country, but about learning life skills. Clubs build communities and societies, which goes a long way in building a state and a nation," Dravid said.

Dravid explained that his younger years were filled with lessons learnt from playing club cricket.

"I've grown up watching club cricket. As a young boy, I grew up watching the great G.R. Viswanath. I have been inspired by him. A lot of what I am today is because of the stories I heard when playing club cricket," he said.

> As a young boy, I grew up watching the great G.R. Viswanath. I have been inspired by him
> – **DRAVID**

"Our city and state has grown. We need to identify talent from every part of Bengaluru and Karnataka. For that to happen, there has to be successful clubs everywhere. We need to ensure that young boys and girls have access to good infrastructure," Dravid added.

Before making his exit, the 51-year-old signed autographs and took photos with the many young children gathered at the venue. In 1974, under the leadership of Test umpire S.K. Raghunathrao, Mount Joy Cricket CC was formed. K.V. Sathyamurthy, Y.S. Mahadev and C. Rajasekhar were some of the key players.

P. Sriram was the first Mount Joy CC player to represent Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy. Prasidh Krishna recently became the first cricketer from the club to represent the national team.

Randhir formally elected OCA president

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Veteran sports administrator and acting president Raja Randhir Singh was officially elected the first Indian president of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) at its 44th General Assembly (GA) on Sunday.

The 77-year-old Randhir, who was the sole candidate for the post after nominations in July, was elected unopposed for the term 2024-2028. The formal voting saw Randhir receive 44 of the 45 National Olympic Committee votes with one abstention.

The OCA GA also saw yoga formally inducted as a demonstration sport at the 2026 Asian Games.

Elected members: President: Raja Randhir Singh (India).
Vice Presidents: Timothy Fok (Hong Kong), Dr. Norza Zakaria (Malaysia), HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck (Bhutan), Dr. Thani Al-Kuwari (Qatar), Otabek Umarov (Uzbekistan).
Executive Board: Ms. Mikako Kotani (Japan), Prof. Dr. Supitr Samahito (Thailand), Ms. Olga Rybakova (Kazakhstan), Noora Al Jasmi (UAE), no candidate.

Recognition: Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya with the athletes, coaches and support staff on their return from the Paris Paralympics. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mandaviya assures best support for para athletes, coaches

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, along with Minister of State Ms. Raksha Khadse, felicitated a big batch of athletes, coaches and support staff, who returned from the Paralympics in Paris on Saturday.

Rifle shooter Avani Lekhara who has won the gold medals in back to back Paralympics in Tokyo and Paris was the star attraction.

Experience

Congratulating the athletes and commending their performance, the Sports Minister said "some returned with medals, and others gained valuable experience".

The 84-member Indian contingent finished with the best-ever performance of seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals.

The total of 29 proved the assessment of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) president and double Paralympic gold medallist Devendra Jhajaria, who had said India would win more than 25 medals and a place in the top-20. India was placed 18th among the 79 countries that won medals.

"Let us build on these experiences and continue to move forward with determination, always aiming for the gold," the Sports Minister said.

He reiterated the government's stand to ensure international-standard training facilities apart from best support for athletes and coaches.

Mahit Sandhu takes home rifle 3-position gold medal

Sports Bureau

Mahit Sandhu won the women's 50m rifle 3-position gold in the second World deaf shooting in Hannover.

Abhinav Deshwal won the men's 25m standard pistol gold with a world record score of 565 in enhancing the rich collection of the Indian contingent. The 17-year-old Abhinav was honoured by the organisers for his two gold and three silver medals.

Women's air pistol gold medallist, the 16-year-old Anuya Prasad, was also the other shooter to be honoured by the organisers. The two youngsters were presented with the Nana figure, a well-known sculpture of Hannover.

India topped the table with seven gold, seven silver and six bronze.

The results: Men: 25m standard pistol: 1. Abhinav Deshwal 565 (WR); 2. Oleksii Lazebnyk (Ukr) 554; 3. Chetan Sapkal 545; 5. Shubham Vashist 535. **Women: 50m rifle 3-position:** 1. Mahit Sandhu 458.0 (WR) 576; 2. Mira Biatovszki (Hun) 445.3 (568); 3. Violeta Lykova (Ukr) 435.7 (576); 4. Natasha Joshi 426.3 (568).

African Gold lives up to his billing in the Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Championship Stakes

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer Parvati Byramji's unbeaten ward African Gold, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Championship Stakes, the stellar attraction of Sunday's (Sept. 8) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, M/s. So Blest Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Girish Mehta.

Akshay, brimming with confidence, decided to dictate the terms from 1000m and the gelding by Multidimensional out of Botswana did the rest by trouncing the opposition by a distance for his fourth win in as many starts.

1. CHAITANAYA CHAKRAM PLATE: ONE N ONLY (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Torchbearer (Ashad Asbar) 2, Queen Of Kings (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Freedom Touch (Neeraj) 4. Not run: Hoping High. 1, 4-3/4 and 3-1/2. 1m, 13.94s. ₹113 (w), 23, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 54, SHW: 30 and 27, FP: 989, Q: 412, Tanala: 2,720. Favourite: Aos Si. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Shankar Srinivas, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mrs. T. Rohini. Trainer: D. Netto.

Rewarding a champion: Y. Gopi, right, presenting the winner's trophy to African Gold's owners Rashmee A. Amersey of So Blest Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd., second from left, and Dilip Thacker, left, of M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP in the presence of HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy, second from right, on Sunday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

2. A. KRISHNA SWAMY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I): AUSTRALIA (Yash Narredu) 1, Espionage (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Final Judgement (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Worcester (Vivek G) 4. Short Head, 5-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 14.37s. ₹39 (w), 11, 16 and 12 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 54, SHW: 33 and 23, FP: 208, Q: 111, Tanala: 429. Favourite: Final Judgement. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

3. ARTILLERY CUP: UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Nonpareil (Akshay K) 2, Jet Falcon (B. Nikhil) 3 and Club Queen (Md. Ekram) 4. Not run: In Proposito. 2, 11, 2. 1m 27. 51s. ₹15 (w), 10, 12 and 93 (p). SHP: 18, THP: 163, SHW: 18 and 13, FP: 25, Q: 19, Tanala: 304. Favourite: Uchchaihshravas. Owners: Md. Kashif Khan & Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. NICE FELLA PLATE: SHADOW OF THE MOON (Vivek G) 1, Siddharth (Akshay K) 2, Huntingdon (Saqlain) 3 and Akido (Gaurav) 4. 3, 3/4 and 7-3/4. 1m, 40.86s. ₹28 (w), 12, 10 and 14 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 30, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 81, Q: 32, Tanala: 116. Favourite: Siddharth. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

5. Y. SHANKER RAO MEMORIAL DECCAN COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES: AFRICAN GOLD (MULTIDIMENSIONAL–BOTSWANA) (AKSHAY KUMAR) 1, Secret Saint (Multitude–Secret Garden) (Antony Raj) 2, King Immortal (Dali–Immortal Story) (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Flying Fury (Smuggler's Cove–Fiorelle) (P. Sai K) 4. 11, 1 and 4-1/2. 1m, 40.74s. ₹12 (w), 10, 18 and 10 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 39, SHW: 10 and 13, FP: 38, Q: 32, Tanala: 118. Favourite: African Gold. Owners: Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, M/s. So Blest Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Girish Mehta. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

6. A. KRISHNA SWAMY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II): GLORIOUS POWER (S. Saqlain) 1, Kings Best (Santosh Raj) 2, Santa Barbara (Md. Ekram) 3 and Coming Home (Mukesh) 4. Not run: Angelita. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 16.43s. ₹48 (w), 15, 25 and 23 (p). SHP: 82, THP: 45, SHW: 10 and 195, FP: 1,414, Q: 440, Tanala: 4,796. Favourite: Dictator. Owners: Mr. L. D' Silva & Mr. Vazhaparmbil J. Joseph. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70% ₹3,282 (91 tkts.) & 30%: 176 (725 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 565 (158 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,587 (23 tkts.), (ii) 261 (163 tkts.).

Sacred Bond for Mir Mushtaq Ali Khan Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old gelding Sacred Bond should score over his rivals in the Mir Mushtaq Ali Khan Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Sept. 9) races.

1 MEDAK PLATE (DIV. III) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.55 p.m.: 1. Sangreal (2) P. Sai K 60, 2. Hoping Star (7) Kuldeep Jr. 59.5, 3. Sucker Punch (8) P. Ajeeth K 58, 4. Doe A Deer (4) Afroz K 57, 5. Genie (1) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 6. Golden Inzio (3) Ajay K 53, 7. Deccan Ranger (5) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 8. Black Power (6) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. SANGREAL, 2. HOPING STAR, 3. GENIE

2 RED SURPRISE PLATE (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.30: 1. Ashwa Yashvir (10) Gaurav 56, 2. Furious Strides (1) Kuldeep Jr. 56, 3. Jim (2) Akshay K 56, 4. Rare Vue (8) A.A. Vikrant 56, 5. Secret Option (5) Shivansh 56, 6. Varaneek Gold (3) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 7. Dream To Fly (7) Md. Ismail 54.5, 8. Miss Melena (9) Abhay Singh 54.5, 9. Most Beautiful (4) Surya Prakash 54.5, 10. Newfound Glory (6) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 11. Normui (11) Mukesh 54.5.
1. NEWFOUND GLORY, 2. JIM, 3. VARANEEK GOLD

3 MEDAK PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.05: 1. Only My Way (1) Afroz K 60, 2. Bold Beauty (8) G. Naresh 59.5, 3. Deccan Daisy (2) M. Mark 58.5, 4. City Cruise (4) R.S. Jodha 57, 5. Pleasant Star (3) Akshay K 56.5, 6. Federer (6) Ashad Asbar 53, 7. Darling's Boy (5) P. Sai K 51.5 and 8. Desert Sultan (7) Likith Appu 51.
1. PLEASANT STAR, 2. ONLY MY WAY, 3. FEDERER

4 MEDAK PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.40: 1. Exclusive Luck (3) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Splendour On Grass (4) Ajay K 60, 3. Ambitious Star (5) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 4. Silver Lining (1) Shivansh 57.5, 5. Indian Temple (8) Kuldeep Sr. 56.5, 6. Nkalanzinzi (7) P. Ajeeth K 53.5, 7. Mix The Magic (2) Mukesh 53, 8. My Brother (9) Md. Ekram 51.5 and 9. Mr. Perfect (6) G. Naresh 50.5.
1. MIX THE MAGIC, 2. EXCLUSIVE LUCK, 3. INDIAN TEMPLE

5 MIR MUSHTAQ ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Sun Dancer (7) Shivansh 60, 2. Proud Mary (1) Arjun 59.5, 3. Briar Ridge (6) Surya Prakash 58.5, 4. Toffee (3) Md. Ekram 55, 5. Fortunatus (4) Ashad Asbar 52.5, 6. Sacred Bond (2) Vivek G 52.5 and 7. Silver Act (5) B. Nikhil 51.
1. SACRED BOND, 2. TOFFEE, 3. FORTUNATOS

6 GREEN HAVEN PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.50: 1. Arthisha (4) B. Nikhil 62, 2. Exponent (8) Gaurav 62, 3. Glimmer Of Hope (9) Shivansh 62, 4. Blue Brigade (6) Abhay Singh 61, 5. Star Cruise (2) Kuldeep Sr. 61, 6. Taaliyah (10) Deepak 61, 7. Dali's Champion (1) Surya Prakash 60.5, 8. Reining Queen (3) P. Ajeeth K 59, 9. Stoli (5) Vivek G 56.5, 10. Zidane (7) Kuldeep Jr. 54.5, 11. Politics (12) Md. Ismail 52.5 and 12. Protocol (11) G. Naresh 50.
1. GLIMMER OF HOPE, 2. STAR CRUISE, 3. EXPONENT

Day's Best: **PLEASANT STAR**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: (I) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.